Topical Lunch Summary – Adam Levine May 5, 2017

As I mentioned, the attendance was both much larger and much more diverse than what I was expecting, which really underscores the huge amount of cross-campus interest and experience in questions related to academic-practitioner collaborations.

Also, in talking to a bunch of folks afterwards, it seems like I was not alone in not knowing most of the people in the room, which also means there are many opportunities for new connections and conversations if people are interested.

For now, I just wanted to write with a quick recap of some of the questions that came up today, all of which touch on aspects of the same overarching question: What do you need to know to form successful academic-practitioner collaborations?

I believe this list at least broadly covers everyone's comments, but if I neglected to write something down then my apologies and please let me know:

1. When it comes to academic-practitioner collaborations, how do the needs/preferences of junior faculty differ from senior faculty?
2. How do the needs of academic collaborations with industry, nonprofits, and government agencies differ?
3. What structures can help potential collaborators find each other? When/how is technology helpful, and when is it either unnecessary and/or even detrimental?
4. How should potential collaborators reveal themselves? Should it be by broad issue area, specific problem they currently have, and/or some other way?
5. How do you ensure that partners are satisfied with the outcome/timeline/question/product of a collaboration? How do you set shared expectations and then evaluate the success of a collaboration?
6. Where does the funding come from and/or what kind of ongoing funding/administrative support is needed for successful collaborations?

This list is certainly not exhaustive, and so if there is something you wanted to add but didn't have a chance to, then please let me know that as well.

Best wishes,
Adam

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