NASA AO Cost and Schedule Lessons Learned Workshop
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SMEX AO Budget Formats, Proposer's View

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Issues

- **Unlimited page count on Cost Section is a burden to proposers**
  - Pressure to provide endless data in order to be competitive
  - Temptation to put information that did not fit elsewhere in the proposal into the cost justification section.
- **SMEX Cost tables B3 and B5 had almost identical content**
  - Effort required to keep them consistent, no value added.
- **SMEX Cost Table B3 cost breakdown not compatible with 7120.5D standard WBS**
  - We are required to budget to a 7120.5D WBS
  - Having a different breakdown adds complexity to the budgeting process
  - Some of the categories provided are not clear and potentially overlapping
- **SMEX budgeting rules for reserves (counting funded schedule margin as part of reserves)**
  - Unrealistic, as schedule margin will inevitable be used
  - For matrixed organizations that can turn on and off talent as needed, it is ambiguous what funded schedule margin means.