

OSP Monthly



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Council on Governmental Relations Effort Reporting- How Universities Meet the Current Federal Requirements

-Tony Aragon

Recent audit findings surrounding compensation on federal research awards have raised the awareness of both federal agencies and universities to issues concerning such costs.

OMB Circular A-21, the primary federal guidance on research funding requirements, recognizes the commingling nature of academic research and teaching, and the imprecision inherent in attempting to separate costs in these two activities.



The Circular A-21 (Section J.10) guidelines describe two requirements concerning the compensation charged directly to an award or through the Facilities and Administrative rate. First, the Institutional Base Salary (IBS) charges on an award fairly represent the work performed on that sponsored agreement. Second, the IRB must follow consistently applied institutional policies regarding compensation and allocated through an official payroll system which ties with the financial records of the institution.

Award terms and OMB Circular A-110 stipulate that agency approval is required only for a significant reduction in time or effort devoted to a project.

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Writing Lab Open House

The Office of Sponsored Projects is proud to announce the open house for our new writing lab!

Not only have we brought in extra computers, but we've added a fax machine, printer and phone for your use as you write your winning proposals!

The OSP writing lab will be open during regular OSP office hours of 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Our Project Administrators, Tony Aragon and Ava Painter, will be accessible for your questions and budget needs.

Our library also shares the writing lab space where you will find great resources on how to write winning proposals, strategies, how to organize a proposal team and more!

The open house will be Tuesday, November 8th from 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Make a plan to stop by on the 8th to talk to us about your proposal ideas, and give us the opportunity to show you how we can help!

Refreshments will be served.

Recently, however, government auditors have pressed for some verification that the effort committed by the principal investigator at the time of the award actually occurred during the life of the award. Most universities have relied on individual principal investigators to assure that commitments they made when a project was awarded have been met, and indeed, federal agencies expect the principal investigator will report any significant changes to these commitments.

Most research-intensive universities have embraced the percent of activity system. This is because the current OMB guidance allows the flexibility to meet the accountability requirement without rigidly requiring the separation of naturally commingled costs, such as research and teaching, or requiring faculty to use time clocks or other hourly accounting mechanisms to verify time charged to a project.

The government does not prescribe a standard method for providing the assurances required under A-21, but identifies specific criteria for an acceptable method and, then, provides examples of acceptable methods (Plan-Conformation, After-the-Fact, and Multiple Confirmation records). Current guidelines require

recipients of federal research funding to state that the compensation charged directly or indirectly to a grant is in accordance with the work performed for the grant.

Even though current guidelines do not provide a standard value of time or clear guidance on specific issues (e.g. defining effort), federal agencies may be faced with imposing definitive effort reporting requirements on awards. In addition federal agencies may eventually require grantees to show the percentage of award time relative to 100 percent.



Our student worker, Mo Williams has moved on to bigger and better things! Not only does fill the position of the photo editor for the Signpost, but he has been hired on to help out with the new DNA Lab. Congratulations Mo!

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NEW AWARDS

Agency: Environmental Potentials
Principal Investigator: Bill Clapp
Amount: \$92,565
Title: Environmental Potentials 2006
Synopsis: Helps pay for a visiting professor to teach upper division courses for the CEET Department.

Agency: Ogden City
Principal Investigator: Jack Loughton
Amount: \$8,500
Title: 2006 Ogden City Police Department Wellness Program
Synopsis: A program which provides access to exercise facilities for Ogden City police officers and their families.

Agency: Salt Lake Community College
Principal Investigator: Juliana Larsen
Amount: \$2,140
Title: 2006 USAAP Highway Safety Subcontract
Synopsis: Coordinates drug and alcohol programs with the Utah State Substance Abuse Prevention Consortium to educate college age students. Hosts events on campuses, provides educational materials and resources, markets healthy alternatives to substance use along with campus policies and provides opportunities for students, staff and faculty to attend regional and national conferences and trainings.

Agency: National League for Nursing
Principal Investigator: Kathleen Sitzman
Proposed Amount: \$30,724

Agency: Utah Division of Emergency Services
Principal Investigator: Cathy Diehl
Proposed Amount: \$500,000

Agency: US Wildlife Services
Principal Investigator: John Cavitt
Proposed Amount: \$ Not Specified

Agency: Utah State Office of Education
Principal Investigator: Carole Haun
Proposed Amount: \$39,378

Agency: Utah Higher Education
Principal Investigator: Julie Snowball
Proposed Amount: \$15,000

Agency: Johnson Fund
Principal Investigator: Ken Johnson
Proposed Amount: 165,524

Agency: Salt Lake Community College
Principal Investigator: Beverly King
Amount: \$7,706
Title: 2005 Entrepreneurial Training
Date Ending: 10/31/05

Agency: National Science Foundation
Principal Investigator: John Cavitt
Amount: \$72,985
Title: Biology of the Great Salt Lake Ecosystem-Year 1
Date Ending: 10/31/05

Agency: U.S. Department of Education; Office of Postsecondary Education; International Education Programs Service
Due Date: November 10, 2005
Amount: \$ 1.4 Mil
of Awards: approximately 25
Synopsis: Notice seeking applications from institutions of higher education, which in turn have solicited applications from individual faculty members on campus, to engage in research abroad in modern foreign languages and area studies. There is an absolute priority for research projects focusing on one of more of the following areas: Africa, East Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands, South Asia, the Near East, East Central Europe and Eurasia, and the Western Hemisphere.

Agency: National Institute on Aging
Due Date: LOI December 30, 2005
Amount: \$300,000 in FY 2006
of Awards: 2-4
Synopsis: RFA supporting longitudinal survey data collection efforts and behavioral interventions in areas such as cognition, genetics, long term care, retirement and economic status, caregiving, behavioral medicine, and the dynamics of health and functional change at older ages.

Agency: U.S. Department of Defense; Department of the Army; U.S. Army Material Command; U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command
Due Date: April 10, 2006
Amount: \$ Unspecified
of Awards: Unspecified
Synopsis: BAA notice seeking white papers for applied research in land mine and improvised explosive devices detection and neutralization technologies. The requirement for white paper submissions has been eliminated, effective starting with the upcoming April 10, 2006 closing date.

Agency: U.S. Department of Defense; Department of the Air Force; Air Mobility Command
Due Date: September 30, 2006
Amount: \$ Unspecified
of Awards: Unspecified
Synopsis: Notice seeking white papers that address technological innovations and/or process improvements that reduce mobility response times, reduce deployable support structures, increase deployed combat capability and effectiveness, and/or enable USAF members to do their job more efficiently.

Agency: National Institute on Drug Abuse

Due Date: LOI December 23, 2005

Amount: \$ 2 Mil

of Awards: 7-9

Synopsis: RFA soliciting applications that will link epigenetics changes to other biological changes (i.e., neuroplasticity) from gene expression to behavior (i.e. addiction).

Agency: National Institute of Mental Health

Due Date: December 1, 2005

Amount: \$ Unspecified

of Awards: Unspecified

Synopsis: PA soliciting applications for support of research and development of commercializable biomarker technologies relevant to mental disorders.

Agency: U.S. Department of Education;
Office of Postsecondary Education;
International Education Programs Service

Due Date: November 10, 2005

Amount: \$ 2.5 Mil

of Awards: approximately 36

Synopsis: Notice seeking proposals which focus on training, research, and curriculum development in modern foreign languages and area studies, including short-term seminars, curriculum development, or group research or study. There is an absolute priority for research projects focusing on one or more of the following areas: Africa, East Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands, South Asia, the Near East, East Central Europe and Eurasia, and the Western Hemisphere.

Agency: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

Due Date: February 1, 2006

Amount: \$ Unspecified

of Awards: Unspecified

Synopsis: PA encouraging the study of the sequence of events in which the vascular inflammatory state contributes to the development and maintenance of hypertension.

Agency: Directorate for Education and Human Resources; Division of Undergraduate Education

Due Date: LOI January 5, 2006

Amount: \$25 Mil

of Awards: 15-20

Synopsis: PA seeking to increase the number of students (U.S. citizens or permanent residents) receiving associate or baccalaureate degrees in established or emerging fields within science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Agency: Directorate for Computer & Information Science and Engineering; Division of Computing & communications Foundations; Division of Computer & Network Systems; Division of Information & Intelligent Systems

Due Date: February 3, 2006

Amount: \$10 Mil

of Awards: 15

Synopsis: PA inviting research and education projects in I/O, file and storage systems design for efficient, high throughput data storage, retrieval and management in the HEC environment.

Agency: Directorate of Engineering; Division of Civil & Mechanical Systems

Due Date: January 25, 2006

Amount: \$7 Mil

of Awards: 6-10

Synopsis: PA Inviting proposals for research that utilize the George E. Brown, Jr. Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation (NEES) to advance earthquake loss reduction.

Office of Sponsored Projects

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