On 10/23/2020, a survey was sent to 1,180 faculty/PIs who submitted a proposal to SPS at Storrs or UConn Health in the last 2 years
  - As of 10/28/20, we have received responses from 726 people – almost 62%
  - The next few slides reflect the preliminary results of the survey

Topics surveyed include:
  - Type of administrative staff available to the investigator
  - General satisfaction with the support received
  - Awareness of UConn/UConn Health’s grant submission process and policies
  - Types of barriers that investigators experience when trying to meet the SPS internal deadline (5 days before the Sponsor deadline)
  - Interest in potential Research Development services

While anonymous, the following demographics were collected:
  - School/College and Academic Department
  - Center that assists with proposals, if applicable
  - Annual volume of proposals submitted
Preliminary Results: OVPR Proposal Survey

What support options are available to assist you with the administrative components of the proposal?

- Department: 32%
- School/College: 28%
- Center: 15%
- OVPR Faculty Services: 13%
- No Support: 11%
- No Answer Provided: 1%
Preliminary Results: OVPR Proposal Survey

How satisfied are you with the level of support you've received from the University on grant submissions?

- Extremely dissatisfied: 4%
- Somewhat dissatisfied: 13%
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied: 11%
- Somewhat satisfied: 41%
- Extremely satisfied: 31%
Preliminary Results: OVPR Proposal Survey

To help us understand any gaps in our messaging regarding UConn/UConn Health’s grant submission process and policies, were you aware of the following?

- SPS Pre-Award is responsible for reviewing and certifying completed proposals prior to submission. 91%
- SPS Pre-Award policy states that full proposals should be complete and submitted to SPS for review a minimum of 5 days before the Sponsor deadline. 83%
- Grant support staff in departments, centers, and schools/colleges support faculty with the preparation of proposals but then must forward proposals to SPS Pre-Award. 81%
- SPS Pre-Award reviews and certifies approximately 3000 proposals per year across all campuses. 34%
- Nearly two-thirds of proposals across all campuses are incomplete (with sections still being submitted to SPS) within 24 hours of the sponsor deadline. 28%
What barriers have you experienced that may make it difficult for you to have a completed proposal ready for SPS review by the internal deadline (5 days before the Sponsor deadline)?

- Waiting for contributions from other team members: 48%
- I prefer to submit as close to the deadline as possible so that I can maximize time devoted to producing a competitive proposal: 35%
- Lack of/inconsistency of administrative support: 31%
- Late breaking opportunities: 30%
- Confusion about UConn/UConn Health’s process or requirements: 17%
- Breakdown in routing process: 16%
Preliminary Results: OVPR Proposal Survey

If Research Development services (grant review, editing, etc.) were available, how interested would you be in receiving assistance with the following?

- **Finding funding opportunities.** 84%
- **Brief review of a draft with high-level comments on structure and content.** 80%
- **Large/complex proposal management support.** 77%
- **In-depth review of a draft with high-level comments and line edits.** 77%
- **Editing proposal in response to reviewer critiques.** 74%
- **Finding collaborators for large or center grants.** 71%
- **Consultation to determine fit and scope in response to a funding opportunity.** 70%
- **Editing for English as a Second Language.** 32%
Would you be willing to submit your proposal earlier in advance of the Sponsor deadline (2-3 weeks) in order to have access to grant review, editing, and/or proofreading services?

- Yes: 45%
- Maybe: 43%
- No: 12%
Preliminary Results: OVPR Proposal Survey

Additional Feedback and Comments
provided by 265 respondents

- Experiences Have Been Positive: 21%
- Improve Review Quality and Timeliness (last minute bottleneck): 21%
- General Suggestion/Comment: 17%
- Improve Process, Workflow, Tools, Training: 15%
- Address Staffing Limits (insufficient/turnover/overextended): 14%
- General Complaint/Frustration: 12%
# Preliminary Results: OVPR Proposal Survey

## Respondent Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus/School</th>
<th>% of Respondents</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Storrs</strong></td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAHNR</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLAS</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Work</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UConn Health</strong></td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Medicine</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>20%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Proposals Submitted Per Year

- 1-2: 42%
- 3-4: 29%
- Less than 1: 12%
- 5 or more: 16%
- No Answer Provided: 1%
83% of respondents are aware of the SPS 5 day policy

Many faculty reported frustration on both sides of the policy

- Those that submit proposals at least 5 days in advance report last minute reviews of their proposals by SPS, stating:
  - "Late proposals seem to jump ahead of ones that are submitted early or on time (5 days early) so what is the incentive?"
  - "Even when proposals are submitted well ahead of time they often sit until last minute at OVPR ... so that even what should/could have been a smooth submission process is stressful"

- Others express frustration at having to have their entire proposal complete so far in advance
  - "Under most circumstance, late breaking opportunities, the need to obtain external collaborators/partners' responses and lack of a timely response from grant support staff from the college/SPS are the key factors that make it difficult to meet the 5-day preview deadline."

45% of respondents stated that they would be willing to submit earlier to have access to grant review, editing, and/or proofreading services