• Foreign Influence – Wesley Byerly
• Current and Pending-Other Support
• General Ledger Transfers
• HRSA/PMS
• January Federal Costing Principles Module
• SPA Meeting Calendar Request
• ERA Commons Update
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Active and pending support ("Other Support") includes all financial resources whether funded through the University or not, such as:

Federal, non-Federal, commercial or organizational support, available in direct support of an individual’s research endeavors, including, but not limited to research grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, or organizational awards. This includes research support from foreign governments or entities. Other support does not include training awards, prizes, or gifts.
In 2019, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) published a reminder on NIH Policies on Other Support and on Policies related to Financial Conflicts of Interest and Foreign Components. This was followed by a Dear Colleague Letter on protecting research funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) from the NSF Director. These notices relate to the ongoing concerns regarding foreign influence in federally funded research.

In response to these publications, the OVPR continues to recommend that any collaborations with foreign entities or individuals, or appointments with foreign entities (including foreign talent or similar programs) be disclosed to the NIH or NSF program officer, your Dean, and the OVPR.
• Departments will initiate non-payroll cost transfers in KFS for Sponsored Awards including related accounts (e.g. match accounts)
  • Exceptions:
    • Direct cost overage of less than $25
    • Accounts that contain only payroll/fringe and a payroll adjustment is not feasible
    • The expense is currently charged to a non-project account and posted in a prior fiscal year (must be submitted using the online cost transfer form)
  • A General Ledger Transfer Guidance document has been issued and provides examples and standardized responses for some scenarios
• Reminder: Beginning in January 2021 NIH grant recipients will be required to submit the SF-425 Federal Financial Report (FFR) in the Payment Management System (PMS) as opposed to the eRA Commons/FFR Module.
• Charges must be on appropriate grant accounts and cash drawn AND received from the sponsor BEFORE the FFR can be submitted. If the cash has not been drawn, the FFR will be rejected.
• Finalize expenses early (payroll, pcard, cost transfers, remove unallowables and expenses after the end date)!
Federal Costing Principles Interactive Training
Storrs - January 13, 2021 8:30 am to 11:30 am
• REGISTRATION INFORMATION will be sent out via email later this month

SPA Calendar Requests
• SPA Information (agenda and log on link) is sent out via email
• Calendar requests are only sent to those who request them
  • You only need to submit one request to receive it each month (I keep an email group)
eRA COMMON CHANGE

- A new login method is rolling out for all users of eRA Commons, ASSIST, Internet Assisted Review (IAR) and Commons Mobile in 2021.
- This secure two-factor authentication allows you to log into multiple systems using the same login.gov credentials while enhancing the security and integrity of access to data in eRA systems.
- The new secure two-factor authentication (2FA) login method involves users creating an account at login.gov, a centralized government portal, and associating their eRA Commons or ASSIST account with it. Users only need to do this association one time.
This requirement will be phased in first for reviewers, meeting by meeting, starting with review meetings effective February 1, 2021 and beyond. As reviewers are enabled for meetings, their IAR accounts will be transitioned to require login.gov.

Users of eRA Commons, Commons Mobile and ASSIST can switch any time to the new option; they are encouraged to begin the switchover to login.gov now, before the mandatory deadline of September 15, 2021 for all users.
PROPOSAL SUBMISSION POLICY

• Full proposal required by SPS Pre-Award 5 business days before sponsor deadline
  • Policy is not followed (two-thirds of proposals received in full less than 1 business day before sponsor deadline)
  • Last minute proposals are often prioritized over those submitted 5 days in advance
  • Creates bottleneck, inadequate time for review, proposal rejection by sponsor, late submissions, staffing issues, and institutional risk
• NSF Audit 2019 - 2020
  • Concerns raised regarding compliance with University policies and lack of internal controls
  • We are addressing all University policies and procedures
PROPOSAL SUBMISSION POLICY

• Outreach and Input
  • Review and feedback process began 2 years ago
  • Input sought from Deans, Associate Deans, President’s Research Advisory Council, University Senate, Faculty groups at Storrs and UCH
  • Survey administered to 1180 faculty who submitted grants within last 2 years (726 responded)
  • The OVPR will continue to work with and incorporate feedback from faculty working groups, as well as a working group soon to be appointed by the President as recommended in a motion by the Faculty Senate.

• New Process Beginning April 5, 2021
  • Final administrative components due to SPS Pre-Award 5 days before sponsor deadline (project narrative can be submitted up to 3 days before deadline)
  • Proposals will be reviewed in order of submission
    • Dashboard will provide info on status and order of review
  • Proposals submitted less than 5 days before sponsor deadline will not be reviewed
  • Potential exceptions include:
    • One pass allowed for each faculty
    • Short turnaround RFPs, last minute sponsor requests, or last minute opportunities or collaborations
    • If no other proposals are in the queue
UPCOMING MEETINGS

All SPA meetings will be held at 10:30 am and will be online until further notice.

- January 20, 2021
- February 17, 2021
- March 17, 2021
- April 21, 2021
- May 19, 2021
- June 16, 2021