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Approved Fringe Benefit Rates for the period 7/1/2014-6/30/2015. Please use these rates for all proposals with a 7/1 or later start date.

- Full-time Faculty 28.6%
- Full-time Contract Professionals 31.4%
- Full-time Staff 42.7%
- PT Professionals (including Faculty summer) 17.3%
- PT Staff 28.7%
- Graduate and Student Assistants 3.1%

NSF NEWS:

NSF Congressional Highlight
Consolidated Appropriations Act of FY 2014
January 23, 2014

On Friday, Jan. 17, the President signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act of FY 2014 (also called the Omnibus). The legislation will provide the National Science Foundation with $7.172 billion, an increase of $287.8 million (or 4.2 percent) over the FY '13 Current Plan (CP) level of $6.884 billion, and is $454 million (or 6 percent) below the FY '14 request. This amount is $177 million (or 2.5 percent) above the House previously recommended FY '14 level, and $254 million (or 3.4 percent) below the Senate recommended FY '14 level.

In the Omnibus, the Research and Related Activities account receives $5.81 billion, $265 million (4.8 percent) above the CP, and $403 million (6.5 percent) below the request. The Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate is given $846.5 million in the bill, an increase of $13.2 million (1.6 percent) over the CP, and $34 million (3.8 percent) below the request. The Major Research, Equipment and Facilities Construction account (MREFC) is funded at $200 million, $3.8 million (2 percent) over the CP, and $10 million (4.8 percent) below the request. The Agency Operation and Awards Management (AOAM) account is given $298 million, $4.4 million (1.5 percent) over the CP, but is $6 million (2.1 percent) below the request. The National Science Board (NSB) is provided $4.3 million, an increase of 4.4 percent from the CP, and a 3.8 percent reduction from the request. The Office of Inspector General (OIG) receives $14.2 million, an increase of 7.7 percent over the CP, and a reduction of nearly 1 percent from the request...
New NSF Grant Proposal Guide Goes into Effect for Proposals Submitted After February 24, 2014

Significant changes to the guide are listed below. Researchers must comply with these latest guidelines. NSF will return noncompliant proposals without review.

Project Summary
1. The Summary must be typed into the 3 text boxes in Fastlane unless it contains special characters.
2. If the summary is uploaded as a supplementary document because it contains special characters, the document must be formatted with separate headings for the overview, statement of intellectual merit, and statement on broader impacts.

Project Description
1. The Project Description must contain, in a separate section within the narrative, a discussion of the broader impacts of the proposed activities.
2. Results of Prior NSF Support
   • In this section the Broader Impacts and Intellectual Merit of the results of completed work must be separately described under two distinct headings.
   • If PI or Co-PI has received more than one award they need only report on the one most closely related to the proposal.

Biographical Sketches
1. Inclusion of any information beyond what is specified in the guidelines is not permitted. NSF may return without review.
2. If all bios for Co-PIs and/or senior personnel are uploaded as a single PDF file associated with the PI, upload a document that states “Not Applicable” for each Co-PI or senior person.
3. Products – In this section, if only publications are included, the heading “Publications” may be used.

Various Sections
In cases where sections are not required, or there is nothing to report (Biographical Sketches, Current & Pending Support, Budget justification) upload a document into the section that states “Not Applicable”.

Download the Guide to see the complete list of changes and clarifications.
NIH NEWS:

Notice of Salary Limitation on Grants, Cooperative Agreements, and Contracts

Notice Number: NOT-OD-14-052
Key Dates-Release Date: February 10, 2014
Related Announcements-NOT-OD-14-053
Issued by-National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Purpose
This Notice provides information regarding the salary limitation for NIH grant and cooperative agreement awards and extramural research and development contract awards (referred to here as grants).

For FY2014, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113-76) signed into law on January 17, 2014, restricts the amount of direct salary to Executive Level II of the Federal Executive Pay scale. The Executive Level II salary has increased to $181,500 effective January 12, 2014...
NIH Fiscal Policy for Grant Awards – FY 2014

Notice Number: NOT-OD-14-055
Key Dates-Release Date: February 10, 2014
Related Announcements-NOT-OD-14-043
Issued by-National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Purpose
This Notice provides guidance about the NIH Fiscal Operations for FY 2014 and implements the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (H.R. 3547/Public Law 113-76), signed by President Obama on January 17, 2014. The Act provides NIH with $30.15 billion, an increase of $1 billion (program level) over FY 2013. The NIH will continue to manage its portfolio in biomedical research investments in a manner that includes recognizing applications from and providing special incentives for new investigators...

NIH Implements Option for Applicants to Switch between the SBIR/STTR programs and the SBIR Direct to Phase II pilot of the SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act of 2011

Notice Number: NOT-OD-14-048
Key Dates-Release Date: February 5, 2014
Related Announcements
PA-14-071 (SBIR Omnibus Solicitation)
PA-14-072 (STTR Omnibus Solicitation)
PAR-14-088 (SBIR Direct to Phase II pilot solicitation)
Issued by
National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Purpose
The 2014 Omnibus Grant Solicitations of the NIH, CDC, FDA and ACF are now available for the SBIR and STTR programs (NIH only)...
FDA Authorized to Collect More Data from IRBs (1/30/14)

OMB has given the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval to collect information from institutional review boards (IRBs) on six new topics, including emergency research, the elements of informed consent and documentation of informed consent, according to a notice in the Jan. 23 Federal Register.

OMB did not grant approval for FDA to collect “individual consent forms that are reviewed and approved by IRBs and subsequently presented to research participants,” according to the “supporting statement” describing the approved collection. FDA solicited comments on the proposed collection to OMB in April 2013; that notice explained the collection in more detail.

Link to approval notice: https://federalregister.gov/a/2014-01310

Security & Biosafety
Publication Restrictions

AAU, APLU Recommend Substantial Revisions in Frontiers in Innovation, Research, Science and Technologies Act (1/9/14)

Embargo periods that prevent publishing for up to two years, disclosure of data used by peer reviewers to make funding recommendations and restricted access to useable research results are among the more problematic provisions in the draft version of the Frontiers in Innovation, Research, Science and Technologies (FIRST) Act, according to a Jan. 2 letter sent to the chair and ranking member of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology by the Association of American Universities (AAU) and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU).

The groups say the public access efforts under way by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy are sufficient and urge FIRST Act provisions be rewritten to “direct agencies to adopt embargo periods that are as short as possible” and to eliminate the “unjustified” requirement for peer reviewer information.

The bill “should specify that agency repositories provide not only access to but full reuse of research results, including text-mining and data-mining,” they said. Other groups have expressed grave concerns about the draft bill.

Link to letter: http://aau.edu/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=14863
Upcoming Research for Lunch Presentation

Malena Espanol, Assistant Professor of Applied Mathematics, will present:

‘MRI-based Classifiers for the Detection of Chiari Malformation’

on March 5, at noon in the Student Union, Room 316.

Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to attend.

If you are interested in taking part in Research for Lunch and presenting your research, please email Kelly Ruszkiewicz, ORA, RschSrsvsG@uakron.edu.

For more details, visit the Office of Research Administration blog.

IACUC 2014

IACUC 2014 is a two-day conference intended for both new IACUC members and seasoned members of animal care and use programs.

It will be held April 29-30 at the North Carolina Biotechnology Center, in Research Triangle Park...
The Financial Research Administration Workshop is a two and one half-day professional development opportunity that focuses primarily on the financial aspects of research administration. This workshop provides an in-depth look at financial compliance issues through a combination of lecture, case studies, review of Federal audit reports, and a discussion of best practices. The workshop presents the financial issues of sponsored programs management using a 'cradle-to-grave', award lifecycle approach, and discusses the impact of the financial issues at each stage of award management.

**Who Should Attend:**

Whether you are a research administrator in a department, a post-award office, a combined sponsored programs office that supports pre- and post-award functions, or a pre-award office that wants to understand how their functions support the post-award functions, this program will help you help you, your institution, and your faculty. Attendees are encouraged to have a minimum of two years of sponsored projects administration experience...
2014 IACUC Conference: 40 Years of Public Responsibility:

Supporting Good Science, Animal Welfare, and Compliance

Pre-conference programs March 31, 2014 / April 2-3, 2014 Denver, CO

The 2014 AAALAC International Conference: The Path to Success Under AAALAC’s New Standards will be held in conjunction with the 2014 IACUC Conference on April 1, 2014...

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

Practicing Good Science through Ethical Study Design

Wednesday, March 19, 2014, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

The process of identifying and addressing the ethical issues raised by human research studies is often thought to be separate from the process of study design, and within the purview solely of the institutional review board (IRB).

However, ideal study design incorporates ethical considerations, and many of the study design decisions made by research teams carry direct ethical implications. This session will examine the pivotal points of research design and the ethical questions that should be addressed at each step along the way...
Professional Development...continued

Midwest/Northeast Section Meeting

April 27 - April 30, 2014
Marriott City Center
Minneapolis, MN

The 2014 Midwest/Northeast Section Meeting will feature concurrent sessions and seven workshops focusing on:

- Professional Development
- Financial Management
- Research Compliance/Research Law
- Pre-Award
- Clinical Research
- PUI’s

You also have the chance to complete an SRA certificate in one of the following:

- Pre-Award
- Leadership
- Introduction to Research Administration and Management...
As mentioned previously in this feature, there is a lot of work going on in the EPDC this year – so much that to describe it all at once would be too much to publish every month. Last month I talked about the Certificates subcommittee, so this month I will focus on the Programming subcommittee. SRA International offers a wide variety of educational programming that supplements the established chapter, section, and annual meetings. The program and format diversity includes a Senior Executive Institute (usually offered in conjunction with our Annual International Meeting in October), online webinars, the Basics of Research Administration program, themed meetings, and educational services such as custom programs and program evaluations. The customized programs and program evaluations span the breadth of the field of research management and also cross a wide variety of institutions, cultures, countries, and customs. As always, the knowledge and power of SRA International members and volunteers amazes me. The EPDC Programming subcommittee is where all of these areas communicate about their future and ongoing programs in order to ensure that the programs are offered across geographical boundaries and membership profiles, and that they are fresh and on point – not just a rehash of previous programs. This team of people is constantly in need of feedback from you, the members, to help SRA International stay abreast of the programming that members want, and their institutions need. SRA International is always open to considering new and effective formats for its educational programming. Feel free to reach out with your ideas any time!

Questions about the EPDC? Contact Stephanie Endy at sendy@nshs.edu or Ellen Lupinski at elupinski@srainternational.org.

The Education and Professional Development Committee (EPDC) provides educational opportunities and events that respond to daily challenges and changes in the profession, while enhancing professional development for SRA International Members. The EPDC is responsible for all aspects of SRA International’s educational and professional development programming.
Federal Funding and the Ohio Third Frontier

Description:

G2G and Hicks Partners, government affairs, lobbying and business development consultants, will provide an update on federal sources of non-dilutive funding and the Ohio Third Frontier program.

The event will contain information on how to access Department of Defense and other government funding opportunities as well as an overview of the 2014 Ohio Third Frontier Program Plan including open RFPs and how to make the Third Frontier work for you.

For more information or to register, please visit here.

Address:

Corporate College East
4400 Richmond Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44128

Start Date/Time: 2/26/2014-8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
A-81: The New Super Circular

We don’t see ourselves as “compliance cops” and have generally shied away from posting articles dealing with the multiple aspects of regulatory compliance. Many of them are found in various federal government circulars.

The Office of Management and Budget has published the new “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards”. This single Circular, often called the “Super Circular,” supersedes and streamlines requirements in OMB Circulars A-21, A-87, A-110, A-122, A-89, A-102, and A-133. The new circular becomes effective no later than December 26, 2014, but effective dates vary by agency and may precede the December deadline. Each Federal agency is responsible for publishing its own specific regulations implementing the new circulars.

Here’s the skinny on the old numbers.

- **A-21**: This Circular establishes principles for determining costs applicable to grants, contracts, and other agreements with educational institutions
- **A-87**: This Circular establishes principles and standards for determining costs for Federal awards carried out through grants, cost reimbursement contracts, and other agreements with State and local governments and federally recognized Indian tribal governments
- **A-110**: This Circular sets forth standards for obtaining consistency and uniformity among Federal agencies in the administration of grants to and agreements with institutions of higher education, hospitals, and other non-profit organizations
- **A-122**: This Circular establishes principles for determining costs of grants, contracts and other agreements with non-profit organizations
- **A-89**: This Circular provides the basis for a systematic and periodic collection and uniform submission of information on all federally financed domestic assistance programs to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) by Federal agencies.
- **A-133**: This Circular establishes audit requirements for federal grant recipients.

Watch for A-81 to be adopted this year. If compliance is not your thing, forward this article to those in your organization who are responsible for keeping the grant house in order. Do they know about A-81?
Poli Sci Victory, For Now
January 24, 2014 by Michael Stratford

WASHINGTON -- Supporters of social science breathed a sigh of relief last week when Congress effectively repealed strict limits on how the National Science Foundation could fund certain types of political science research.

The omnibus appropriations bill that Congress passed and the President signed into law last week did not include the controversial provision that had, for more than nine months, restricted NSF funding for political science to only projects that directly promoted national security and U.S. economic interests...

Fortifying Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Education

The President has consistently called for improvements in STEM education to move America’s students to the top of the pack by enabling all students to learn deeply and think critically in science and math; expanding STEM education opportunities for students from all backgrounds; and building partnerships among educators, businesses and community partners to support advances in STEM education.

This Administration has promoted several successful STEM initiatives, including prioritizing STEM education in Race to the Top and the Investing in Innovation Fund; improving the coordination of STEM education initiatives between the Department of Education and NSF; and promoting over 100 industry partners in their efforts to boost STEM learning through Change the Equation...

The Office of Research Administration is Now on Twitter!

Find out about research grant opportunities by following: @UA_ORA

The ORA (Office of Research Administration) is currently planning its 2013-14 education schedule. If there is a particular topic that you would like to see presented in the next academic year, we want to hear from you!

Contact Kelly Ruszkiewicz: 330-972-7774 e mail: RschSrvsGA8@uakron.edu

Do you have an idea or know someone who would like to receive GRANT?

Contact me: Mary Samartgedes 330-972-7666