

Updates from VP for Research

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- **Post Award Management (PAM) Initiative at the University of Utah**

The University of Utah is currently reviewing the post award accounting and management tools available to researchers, staff, and administrators with the hopes of making them more user-friendly. Over the next few months, we will be assessing the many interrelated processes for post award management, considering what is done at other universities, and evaluating the potential changes that might make these programs more effective to use. We will be visiting with other universities, spending considerable time with each office at the university that is directly responsible for post award management, gathering feedback from faculty, staff, and administrators via focus groups, 'town' meetings, interviews, and surveys, putting together an initial plan, and gathering feedback on that initial plan. More information will be placed on the PAM site as the project progresses. Faculty & staff should watch the FYI newsletter for upcoming requests to participate in the feedback process (emails will be sent to the deans and chairs, as well). We will also post periodic updates on the process, findings, and timeline on FYI and the PAM site listed below.

Site for PAM Updates: <https://www.unite.utah.edu/gm/folder-1.11.74206>

Link for ongoing comments & suggestions:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/V7LTQBV>

The PAM Steering Committee is:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Cynthia Furse | (chair) Associate Vice President for Research (cfurse@ece.utah.edu) |
| Theresa Ashman | Controller |
| Kevon Balls | IT Coordinator, VP for Research Office |
| Paul Brinkman | Associate VP for Finance |
| Brent Brown | Director, OSP |
| Dean Church | Director, Financial Solutions |
| Stephen Hess | Chief Information Officer |
| Michael Kay | Assistant Dean, Engineering |


| | |
|---------------|--|
| Mike Robinson | Computer Administrator, UIT |
| Joe Taylor | Director, Projects and Applications, UIT |
| Kevin Taylor | Director, Planning and Policy, UIT |
| Jeff West | Assoc VP Financial and Business Services |
| Sandy Hughes | Director, Budget and Institutional Analysis Office |

- **Financial Information Library FACULTY link**

Thanks to the efforts of the Financial & Business Services group at the University of Utah, we now have a new and simplified financial report for faculty (and administrators) to use to manage their projects. This link includes information on personnel and other expenses on the project by month for any 12 month period, total amounts spent to date on the project, total amounts received to date, and the available funds.

To find the FACULTY link:

- 1) Login to the Campus Information System (CIS)
- 2) Find the Financial & Business Services box.
- 3) Under Reports, click on the Financial Information Library (FIL)
- 4) Find the FACULTY link, and click on it.
- 5) Three options come up
 - a. Mnthly Expense by Project (total expenses for each month and also project to date)
 - b. Mnthly Personnel Earns by Proj (payments made to each individual for each month)
 - c. Project attributes (start and end date, award #, etc.)

You can find details on what each part of the report includes by clicking on the  image next to each item.

[Click here](#)¹ for examples of the Mnthly Expense by Project and Mnthly Personnel Earns by Proj reports and a guide to what each item means.

We hope you find this new link useful for managing the financial aspects of your projects.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Furse
Associate VP for Research

- **Peer Review by Faculty Increases Proposal Success**

Dear Faculty and Deans,

Writing a proposal is a very time consuming process. When it comes back unfunded, more time is needed to revise and resubmit, and many agencies have a limit to the number of times an idea can be resubmitted. In order to increase the success of a proposal being funded, we would like to strongly encourage PIs to seek reviewers from within our university community before sending the proposal to the agency. We would like it to be the norm rather than the exception to have faculty peer review each other's proposals. Please work out a system within your research communities to enable this to happen. We realize this means that proposals may need to be substantially finished earlier than the submission deadline, but that would probably be a good idea as well. In order to recognize the contributions that these reviewers make, we have added a section to the Eproposal submission form that asks for their name(s). We will be informing all deans and chairs of the reviewers, so that they will know of this valuable contribution.

Please remember there is also assistance through the [University Writing Center](#) to proof read faculty proposals. This resource can best be utilized when proposals are finished early, also.

Thank you,

Cynthia Furse

Associate VP for Research

- **MyRA**

Welcome to the My Research Assistant (MyRA) initiative! MyRA is the vision of the CTSA program as a One Stop Shop for Research at the University of Utah. Expanded from the original focus of clinical research, we now have a campus-wide collaboration to help gather the information needed for faculty applying for and doing research at the University of Utah. The four major goals of MyRA are to

- 1) Help researchers find information about grant applications procedures, where to find funds, how to apply for them, etc. (This is the focus of this first roll-out of the PreMyRA site. More resources on HOW to apply & write a good grant will be coming in the next few weeks.)
- 2) Help researchers find resources and facilities (including statistical support, equipment and core facilities, and related programs often

incorporated in grants (outreach, etc.)) (This is VERY preliminary in the current version, but what is there can be found using the 'search' option.)

3) Link researchers to the rich store of data available for use in their work, including clinical data, on campus collaborators, and other university resources (upcoming)

4) Finding collaborators and mentors (upcoming)

A VERY preliminary Pre-MyRA site is available to all UofU faculty and staff at:

www.myra.utah.edu

The site already includes links to:

- **Funding Resources** (lists and links to national agencies, and information on how to apply for funds for these agencies).
- **UofU Researcher Resources** (including budget information for proposal writing)
- **Grant Writing Resources** (hints on writing grants)
- **New Faculty** (links specifically of interest to new faculty including grant opportunities specifically for new faculty)
- **Facilities and Resources** (to add to this searchable list, email to: GWN_resources@unite.utah.edu)

An example of some very useful information for faculty who are new to a specific agency is the videos/slides of the recent workshops on how to apply for funding from:

[NSF: National Science Foundation](#)

[NIH: National Institutes of Health](#)

[DOE: Department of Energy](#) (see Programs)

[DTRA: Defense Threat Reduction Agency](#)

Additional information will be collected on this PreMyRA site until we believe it is ready to migrate to a more permanent website home. Please send requests for specific information needed on this site, or information you have available to share with the campus community, to:

Myra@unite.utah.edu

- **Scientists Seeking NSF Funding Will Soon Be Required to Submit Data Management Plans**

Dear Faculty and Deans,

Please see the notice below from NSF -- Scientists Seeking NSF Funding Will Soon Be Required to Submit Data Management Plans. I wanted to make you aware of a possible repository for your data at the university. Uspace (Uspace.utah.edu) is an online repository for data/software/theses/dissertations/publications/reports/etc. It is made possible by the Institutional Repository Initiative, which is a collaborative project between the libraries at the University of Utah and the University community. Their goal is to collect and archive the intellectual capital of the institution and make these scholarly materials freely available on the Internet. You may Contact Lisa Chafty at the library for assistance and further information (lisa.chafty@yutah.edu).

Cynthia Furse

Associate VP for Research

http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=116928&org=NSF

Press Release 10-077

Scientists Seeking NSF Funding Will Soon Be Required to Submit Data Management Plans

Government-wide emphasis on community access to data supports substantive push toward more open sharing of research data

May 10, 2010

During the May 5th meeting of the [National Science Board](#), National Science Foundation (NSF) officials announced a change in the implementation of the existing policy on sharing research data. In particular, on or around October, 2010, NSF is planning to require that all proposals include a data management plan in the form of a two-page supplementary document. The research community will be informed of the specifics of the anticipated changes and the agency's expectations for the data management plans.

The changes are designed to address trends and needs in the modern era of data-driven science.

"Science is becoming data-intensive and collaborative," noted Ed Seidel, acting assistant director for NSF's Mathematical and Physical Sciences directorate. "Researchers from numerous disciplines need to work together to attack complex problems; openly sharing data will pave the way for researchers to communicate and collaborate more effectively."

"This is the first step in what will be a more comprehensive approach to data policy," added Cora Marrett, NSF acting deputy director. "It will address the need for data from publicly-funded research to be made public."

Seidel acknowledged that each discipline has its own culture about data-sharing, and said that NSF wants to avoid a one-size-fits-all approach to the issue. But for all disciplines, the data management plans will be subject to peer review, and the new approach will allow flexibility at the directorate and division levels to tailor implementation as appropriate.

This is a change in the implementation of NSF's long-standing policy that requires grantees to share their data within a reasonable length of time, so long as the cost is modest.

"The change reflects a move to the Digital Age, where scientific breakthroughs will be powered by advanced computing techniques that help researchers explore and mine datasets," said Jeannette Wing, assistant director for NSF's Computer & Information Science & Engineering directorate. "Digital data are both the products of research and the foundation for new scientific insights and discoveries that drive innovation."

NSF has a variety of initiatives focused on advancing the vision of data-intensive science. The issue is central to NSF's [Sustainable Digital Data Preservation and Access Network Partners \(DataNet\)](#) program in the Office of Cyberinfrastructure.

"Twenty-first century scientific inquiry will depend in large part on data exploration," said José Muñoz, acting director of the Office of Cyberinfrastructure. "It is imperative that data be made not only as widely available as possible but also accessible to the broad scientific communities."

Seidel noted that requiring the data management plans was consistent with NSF's mission and with the growing interest from U.S. policymakers in making sure that any data obtained with federal funds be accessible to the general public. Along with other federal agencies, NSF is subject to the [Open Government Directive](#), an effort of the Obama administration to make government more transparent and more participatory.

-NSF-

Media Contacts

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The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent federal agency that supports fundamental research and education across all fields of science and engineering. In fiscal year (FY) 2010, its budget is about \$6.9 billion. NSF funds reach all 50 states through grants to nearly 2,000 universities and institutions. Each year, NSF receives over 45,000 competitive requests for funding, and makes over 11,500 new funding awards. NSF also awards over \$400 million in professional and service contracts yearly.

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- **Undergraduate Researchers Are Overhead-free on any Research Account**

Dear Deans,

The UofU has chosen to incentivize faculty to include undergraduate students in their research by returning an amount equivalent to the overhead (F&A) collected on their salaries to the researcher. Here is how it works:

- 1) Do the budget in the ordinary way, charging overhead on the student salary.
- 2) When payroll is set up for the undergraduate (undergrad ONLY), use an account #53400 entitled "Hourly Undergrad-IC Exempt". This is ONLY to be used for undergraduates working on a funded research project. When a student is paid on account 53400 no F&A will be calculated on their salary.
- 3) Since the F&A is not removed from the account, this is equivalent to returning that F&A directly to the researcher (it will still be in the account, to be used for other expenses).

This is not a new program, but many university researchers are not aware of it. Please be sure that your faculty and payroll personnel are aware of this program.

Thank you,
Cynthia Furse
Tom Parks

Assoc VP Research
VP Research