January 2020 Newsletter

In this issue:

Director's Announcement

New Grants Technician

The Office of Sponsored Programs said goodbye to Esmeralda Cortes in late November. At the beginning of the new year, we welcomed Kelly Hill as our new Grants Technician. Kelly is no stranger to JMU, having joined us from Procurement where she worked for about six years. Kelly looks forward to learning more about external funding activity at the university and is eager to begin working with our faculty members.

Off-Campus IDC Rate

The off-campus indirect cost rate can be used if the majority of your project takes place off campus. When making this determination, consider where you will physically be when you are working on your project. JMU offices separate from the main campus, such as Technology Drive, are still considered on-campus. When collaborating with colleagues from other institutions, make sure you are only considering your portion of the work, rather than the project as a whole, when determining which indirect cost rate to use.

If you have any questions regarding which indirect cost rate to use, please

reach out to us at jmu_grants@jmu.edu or 8-6872.

National Science Foundation

Proposal and Award Policy Update

In the October 2019 issue of the NSF Proposal and Awards Policy Update, the National Science Foundation (NSF) highlighted several policy clarifications and updates of interest. The Office of Sponsored Programs has highlighted the following items to bring to the forefront:

- There will not be an January 2020 PAPPG effective date due to the delay in the release of the PAPPG. Concerns over the reporting of current and pending support are still being ironed out.
- NSF has selected SciENcv as an NSF approved format for the biosketch. NSF encourages applicants to being using the NSF template in SciENcv as the foundation is moving towards only accepting biosketches in the NSF approved format.
- NSF and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) are collaborating to develop a template to use for Current and Pending information.
- NSF would like applicants to phase out FastLane and begin using Research.gov for proposal submissions. Benefits of using Research.gov include compliance checks for fonts, margins, and line spacing, real-time compliance feedback and alerts, specific checks for the budget and Collaborator and Other Affiliations uploads, and embedded guidance and video job aids.

You may view the full update here.

IUSE Seeking Potential Reviewers

The Division of Undergraduate Education at the National Science Foundation is in the process of identifying potential reviewers for FY 2020 for the Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (IUSE) Program under program solicitation NSF 19-601. If you are interested in serving as a reviewer in the current fiscal year (October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020), please complete the survey at the following link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IUSE20

This is a great opportunity for newer faculty to gain experience with grant writing and to become familiar with the NSF proposal expectations!

National Institutes of Health

Data Available on NIH Funding Plans

A recent Open Mike highlighted fiscal year 2018 data on R01-equivalent applications and

R56-Bridge awards, showing both data for funded and unfunded applications. The blog post indicates that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) considers peer review scores, unmet scientific needs, and the agency's research portfolio when considering funding decisions. NIH Institutes and Centers set percentile-based paylines each fiscal year to assist with funding decisions as well. In fiscal year 18, 5,710 R01-equivalent grant awards were made while there were 9,309 unfunded applications.

Check out the entire post for additional data and information on how funding decisions are made at NIH.

Revised NIH Grants Policy Statement for FY 2020

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has published the revised NIH Grants Policy Statement for fiscal year 2020, which applies to all applications with budget periods beginning on or after October 1, 2019. The full policy statement may be found here and a summary of significant changes can be foundhere. Some of the highlights include additional clarification on research misconduct issues, ORCID ID requirements, and several updates to the SBIR/STTR policy.

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February/March 2020 Newsletter

In this issue:

- **Director's Announcement -** OSP Remote Operations; Travel Cancellations due to COVID-19 and Sponsored Programs
- **National Science Foundation -** Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) 20-1: Significant Changes and Clarifications; COVID-19 Guidance
- **National Institutes of Health -** General FAQs Related to COVID-19

Director's Announcement

OSP Remote Operations

Due to guidance issued by the university over the weekend, the Office of Sponsored Programs will be operating remotely for the time being. Email is the best form of communication during this time and we do not foresee any lapse or delays in processing grant requests. We are still able to submit grant proposals remotely and can still act as the liaison between you and the sponsor. While we are operating remotely, please keep in mind that we are unable to access many of our electronic files, reporting, or JMU systems, so requests that involve these resources may be delayed. Please continue to keep us informed of any prior approval requests such as no-cost extensions and budget revisions during this time so that we can provide assistance. We still remain devoted to providing timely and helpful service to our faculty and staff involved in external funding and hope that everyone stays healthy during this time.

Travel Cancellations due to COVID-19 and Sponsored Programs

Federal sponsors are beginning to issue guidance to whether cancelled, non-refundable travel arrangements due to the COVID-19 can be charged to sponsored

programs. If you have a federal grant and travel may be affected by COVID-19 related cancellations, you may want to check this [central repository of announcements](#) for further guidance. If your project performance is impacted by COVID-19 travel restrictions in any way, regardless of sponsor type, please contact OSP as soon as possible so that we can reach out to your sponsor to receive guidance on next steps.

National Science Foundation

Proposal and Award Policy and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) 20-1: Significant Changes and Clarifications

Proposals submitted or due, or awards made, on or after June 1, 2020 must follow the NSF [PAPPG 20-1](#). Below are highlights of the significant changes and clarifications:

- [Biographical Sketch](#) - Proposers must use an NSF-approved format either thru [SciENcv](#) or a NSF Fillable PDF (coming soon). NSF added language to the Appointments section to increase clarity. Appointments should include any titled academic, professional, or institutional position, whether or not remuneration is received. NSF updated the Synergistic Activities section to clarify that these activities should be specific and not include multiple examples to describe a single activity. For example: Co-chair of a session at a conference in France and a conference in Germany would be two separate activities.

- [Current and Pending Support](#) - Proposers must use an NSF-approved format either thru [SciENcv](#) or a NSF Fillable PDF (coming soon). In-kind contributions that are not intended for use on the project/proposal being proposed to NSF but that have associated time commitment, must be included as part of the Current and Pending Support section of the proposal. If the in-kind contributions are intended for use on the project/proposal being proposed to NSF, the information must be included as part of the Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources section of the proposal. The in-kind contribution information on the Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources section should not be quantifiable financial information. For more information, please see a set of frequently asked questions related to current and pending support at: https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/papp/pappg20_1/faqs_cps20_1.pdf

- **List of Suggested Reviewers or Reviewer Not to Include**– Updated to remove the requirement to indicate why the proposer prefers someone not review their proposal.

- **Project Description** - The requirement to include a separate section labeled "Intellectual Merit" in the project description has been

removed. In addition, another example has been added to the list of societally relevant outcomes in the broader impacts paragraph. The list is not meant to be either comprehensive or prescriptive; proposers may include appropriate outcomes not covered by the examples.

- **Participant Support Costs** - NSF has made language changes related to service agreements/contracts and meals and coffee breaks to provide greater clarity. Conference costs, such as catering costs, that are secured through a service agreement should not be Participant Support Costs but should be budgeted as Other Direct Costs.

- **Collaborators & Other Affiliations Information** - Guidance has been added to clarify that the instructions at the top of the template may be deleted and rows may be inserted as needed to provide additional names. When completing the template, do not change the column sizes or the font type.

The Office of Sponsored Programs encourages those who are interested in applying for NSF funding this summer to familiarize themselves with the new PAPPG. We also encourage all NSF applicants to begin using SciENvc to formulate your Biosketch and Current and Pending Support documents now so to familiarize yourself with the system before it is mandatory.

COVID-19 Guidance

The National Science Foundation created an [informational page](#) related to COVID-19 which includes guidance to the NSF Community whose projects may have been impacted by COVID-19. If you have an active NSF grant that may be affected, the OSP encourages you to read the [FAQs](#) detailing NSF's response and expectations during this time. Please do not hesitate to reach out to OSP with any questions or concerns related to proposal submission or ongoing projects.

National Institutes of Health

General FAQs on COVID-19

The National Institutes of Health issued notice providing guidance to the research community related to proposal submission and awards management related to COVID-19 ([NOT-OD-20-083](#)). Those with current NIH awards and those who have a deadline quickly approaching are encouraged to review this notice. Please remember that the OSP is here to assist you during this time, so please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or prior approval requests.

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April/May 2020 Newsletter

In this issue:

- **Director's Announcement -** COVID-19 Resource Page; Hiring Students and Personnel on Sponsored Programs
- **Featured Funding -** Spencer Foundation Research Grants on Education: COVID-19 Related Special Grant Cycle
- **National Science Foundation -** Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) 20-1: Mandatory Use of New Biosketch and Current and Pending Templates
- **National Institutes of Health -** COVID-19 Related Guidance for Reviewers

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Director's Announcement

COVID-19 Resource Page

The Office of Sponsored Programs has created a **COVID-19 Resources** page on our website to help organize the many resources available. This resource page includes information on COVID related funding opportunities, steps that federal agencies are taking during this time, NSF, NIH, and NEH Specific guidance, and occasional calls for resources put out by various agencies. We hope that you find this page helpful. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions on existing grants or wish to apply for COVID specific funding.

Hiring Students and Personnel on Sponsored Programs

As you may be aware, the university is on a hiring freeze. This freeze has also been extended to sponsored programs, however exceptions are being granted for students. Hiring additional personnel is being considered on a case by case basis. If you need to hire students or additional personnel from your sponsored program, please reach out to **Sponsored Programs Accounting** as soon as possible so that they can walk you through the additional steps that need to be

completed during this time.

Featured Funding

Spencer Foundation Research Grants on Education: COVID-19 Related Special Grant Cycle

The COVID-19 Related Research Grants support education research projects that will contribute to the rapid shifts in education during this time. The Spencer Foundation is particularly interested in two categories of projects: (1) studies that aim to understand and disrupt the reproduction and deepening of educational inequality caused by COVID-19; and (2) research projects that are working to re-imagine educational opportunities during the crisis. Proposals for projects other than research are ineligible for this cycle.

Due Date: June 8th, 2020
Amount: $50,000
Period: 1 to 3 years

Please contact OSP as soon as possible if you are interested in applying for funding.

National Science Foundation

Proposal and Award Policy and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) 20-1

This is just a friendly reminder that proposals submitted or due, or awards made, on or after June 1, 2020 must follow the NSF PAPPG 20-1. There are several significant changes in this new version of the PAPPG that will affect grantees including new required formats for the biosketch, current and pending document, and the elimination of the "Intellectual Merit" heading within the project description.

Those who intend to apply for NSF funding within the next year are encouraged to review the newest iteration of the PAPPG each year to ensure your proposal complies with the latest guidance. As always, OSP is here to offer assistance and guidance on interpreting these policies.

Mandatory Use of New Biosketch and Current and Pending

Templates

The mandatory use of the new biosketch and current and pending templates for NSF proposals due on or after June 1, 2020. The OSP has posted information on the new templates on our webpage in several places including the **Forms, Tools, and Resources** page under Proposal Components and Sponsor Forms and the **NSF Toolbox** under Form Preparation.

Additional details on the new mandatory forms, including FAQs for the use of each form can also be found directly from NSF. Information for the biosketch can be found **here** and information for the current and pending document can be found **here**. While OSP frequently monitors guidance and policy changes from sponsors, we encourage grant seekers to pull forms directly from NSF to ensure the current version of the forms are being used.

National Institutes of Health

COVID-19 Related Guidance for Reviewers

The National Institutes of Health issued an **Open Mike** on April 21, 2020 reassuring applicants that guidance had been issued to peer-reviewers for reviewing applications during the coronavirus pandemic. Reviewers should ensure that issues resulting from the current pandemic, such as delayed recruitment plans, key personnel diverting effort from the proposed research due to fulfilling patient care centered roles, and proposed travel plans, should not affect scores. For additional information on the issued guidance to peer reviewers make sure to check out the full Open Mike.

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September 2020 Newsletter

In this issue:

- **Featured Funding:** Research on Emerging Technologies for Teaching and Learning (RETTL)
- **Director's Announcement -** OSP/SPA Merge; InfoEd SPIN
- **National Science Foundation -** Mandatory Use of Biosketch and Current and Pending Templates; Transition to Research.gov
- **National Institutes of Health -** Am I Doing Human Subjects' Research; NIH Virtual Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration; Hyperlinks Policy

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Featured Funding

Research on Emerging Technologies for Teaching and Learning (RETTL)

The National Science Foundation announced the opening of the Research on Emerging Technologies for Teaching and Learning (RETTL) program (NSF 20-612), formerly known as the Cyberlearning program. The purpose of RETTL is to fund exploratory and synergistic research in emerging technologies for teaching and learning in

the future, with a focus on learning, teaching, or a combination of both. There is a special interest in diverse learner/educator populations, contexts, and content including teaching and learning in STEM and in foundational areas that enable STEM.

This program will not fund projects that aim to implement and evaluate software application or technology in a learning setting, promote student competency development using technology, or primarily assess educational impact with current technology.

Due Date: January 25, 2021
Funding: Up to $850,000 for 3 years
Eligibility: An individual may participate as a PI, co-PI, or Senior Personnel in

no more than 1 proposal

Interested parties should contact OSP as soon as possible for help with budget development and mandatory sponsor forms.

Director's Announcement

OSP/SPA Merge

As of September 1st, the Office of Sponsored Programs and Sponsored Programs Accounting have merged under the one Office of Sponsored Programs umbrella. While your staff contacts for administrative and financial functions have not changed, all of your sponsored programs needs can now be found with one office, on the second floor of Foundation Hall. We look forward to continuing to serve our faculty and staff involved in external funding.

InfoEd SPIN

As of July 2020, JMU has replaced our Grants Resource Center subscription with InfoEd SPIN. SPIN is the world's number one funding opportunity database with over 40,000 opportunities from more than 10,000 sponsors. The JMU Community can connect to the database to search for funding opportunities anonymously from on-campus or can create their own log-in. Creating your own log-in will allow you to save searches, bookmark funding opportunities, and receive SMART Alerts when new funding opportunities that meet your search criteria are added. Information on how to access SPIN and set up individual log-in credentials can be found here.

National Science Foundation

Mandatory Use of Biosketch and Current and Pending Templates

The National Science Foundation had delayed the mandatory use of the new biosketch and current and pending templates for NSF to October 5, 2020. As a reminder, the OSP has posted information on the new templates on our webpage in several places including the Forms, Tools, and Resources page under Proposal Components and Sponsor Forms and the NSF Toolbox under Form Preparation.

While OSP frequently monitors guidance and policy changes from sponsors, we encourage grant seekers to either use SciENcv to create your materials or pull the forms directly from NSF to ensure the current version of the forms are being used. It is important to not modify the fillable

templates so that your proposal is not returned without review. Additional FAQs released by NSF on each form can be found [here](). Biosketch information can be found [here]() and information for the current and pending document can be found [here]().

Transition to Research.gov

On September 22, 2020 NSF released [Important Notice No. 147]() which outlined the agency's timeline to transition proposal submission from FastLane to Research.gov. NSF hope to achieve this transition by 2022, so it is important to become familiar with the functions available on Research.gov now. Additionally, the notice indicates that the Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) will require the use of Research.gov for proposal submission for core programs without a due date soon. In addition, NSF funding opportunities will specify whether submission via Research.gov is available or required.

The Office of Sponsored Programs has been staying up to date on the Research.gov developments and have submitted several proposals in this system without issues. We encourage PIs to begin starting proposals within Research.gov before it is mandatory so that FastLane can be used as a backup if needed.
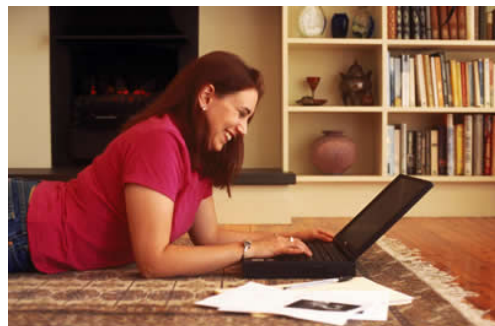
National Institutes of Health

Am I Doing Human Subjects' Research?

The National Institutes of Health released a new All About Grants Podcast concerning human subjects' research on September 1, 2020. Lyndi Lahl, R.N., a Human Subjects' Officer within the NIH's Office of Extramural Research explains what human subjects' research means, its relation to the Common Rule, what research may be exempt, what institutions must have in place, and where to find additional resources. Listen to the podcast or read a transcript [here]().

NIH Virtual Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration

The National Institutes of Health is hosting a free [virtual seminar]() designed to demystify the NIH grant application and review process. The seminar will run October 27 - 30, 2020 and will consist of live and simu-live sessions, as well as an on-demand video library, live chat opportunities, downloadable resources, and three tracks designed around grants policies and programs. Registration is required, so make sure to sign up [here](). The latest registration and agenda updates can be found on the [seminar site]().

Hyperlinks Policy

The National Institutes of Health released NOT-OD-20-174 to remind the grants community of their use of hypertext in grant applications policy. As a reminder, hyperlinks and URLS are only allowed when specifically noted in the funding opportunity announcement and form field instructions. This is typically limited to citing relevant publications in biosketches and publications listings. When the use of URLs is allowable, they actual URL text must be hyperlinked rather than hyperlinking a related word or phrase. NOT-OD-20-174 also contains additional information on why hypertext and URLs are typically not allowed in grant applications.

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- Office of Sponsored Programs Financial Services Directory

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