

Update from the Director

OSR Quarterly Network
Wednesday, February 26, 2014

Elizabeth Adams
Executive Director, OSR-Evanston



NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY

Staffing Update

- *Kim Griffin, new Director of Electronic Research Administration*
- Starting Wednesday, March 12
- Significant number of systems supporting research at NU...and beyond
- Significant internal and external interest in organizational transparency, and metrics
 - InfoEd
 - Grants.gov
 - NU Financials
 - Research.gov
 - OnBase
 - Fastlane
 - FASIS
 - Et cetera
 - Effort Reporting
 - ESPR



Northwestern Sponsored Research In the News

- Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation (“DMDI”) Institute
- Consortium of universities, corporations and government entities in the region, including NU
- \$70M Department of Defense award
- Significant cost sharing (\$250M)
- Lab to be located on the northern end of Goose Island
- Digital manufacturing is a method of production in which computer technology manufactures products in a desired style or quantity with little or no involvement from humans



The “Omni” is Still In the News

- The OMB “*Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards; Final Rule*” was released on December 26, 2013
- The “Omnircular” consolidates the federal circulars that govern financial assistance (grants), including A-21, A-110 and A-133
- Meant to ease administrative burden and strengthen oversight over Federal funds to reduce risks of waste, fraud and abuse (possible to do both at the same time?)
- Federal agencies have until June 26, 2014 to submit to OMB *draft* regulations conforming to the new requirements
- The effective/applicability date is December 26, 2014



The “Omni” is Still In the News

- Northwestern partnering with peer institutions and the government (via FDP, COGR, etc.) in interpreting the guidance
- Not yet clear how the Omni will change day-to-day research administration at Northwestern
 - Assignment of costs
 - Effort reporting
 - Cost sharing
 - Conflict of interest
- More soon



NIH Payment Management System changes

- NIH is amid the implementation of the transition to “subaccounts” (i.e., award-by-award cash requests) in the Payment Management System (PMS)
- NSF also recently transitioned from a “pooled” method to a “fund account” method
- The idea is for NIH to have greater visibility over the expenditure of funds and greater control over closeout
- This not simply a “billing” or “cash flow” issue; it will have major impacts on the management of NIH awards in the short term, as the change is implemented



More from the NIH

- A series of fiscal notices from NIH were released on February 10, 2014
- Salary Limitation, NOT-OD-14-052
 - NIH cap increased from \$179,700 to \$181,500
 - Effective January 12, 2014
- Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA), NOT-OD-14-046
 - Predoctoral stipends are increased by 2 percent
 - Entry-level postdoctoral stipends are increased by 7 percent
 - Other postdoctoral stipends are increased by 4 percent
 - Tuition and Fees, Training Related Expenses for trainees, and the Institutional Allowance for individual fellows are unchanged
 - -Next NRSA deadline: April 8



Questions?

Thank you!



NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY