Update from the Director

OSR-Evanston Quarterly Network
Friday, June 20, 2014

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Executive Director, OSR-Evanston
Staffing Update

• Kelly Morrison, Associate Director
• Josh Richards, Grants Assistant
• Mike Rynties, Contracts Officer
• Rebecca Wee, Assistant Grants Officer

• Stephanie Logaras, Associate Grants Officer
Constituencies

• Considerations
  – Staffing
  – Equitable workload distribution
  – Unit profile, volume and portfolio
• Some changes coming
Proposal Development and Submission

• Predominant business function of OSR
  – Agreement negotiation
  – Award establishment
  – Subcontract issuance
  – Non-financial post-award
  – Some financial post-award!
  – Training/outreach
  – ERA/information

• With regard to proposal processing, OSR-Evanston is most interested in the development and submission of the administrative shell
Proposal Development and Submission

• Administrative shell checklist
• Administrative shell is due 5 days in advance of the proposal deadline
• We’re seeing an increased incidence of administrative shells 0 to 1 day in advance of the proposal deadline
• Final Route in InfoEd unfortunately does not track or measure the development/submission of the administrative shell; we are now collecting this data manually
Proposal Development and Submission

• Let’s work together to minimize same-day administrative shell proposal submissions to OSR

• Are there additional tools or training that could help?
Omnicircular Refresher

• The OMB “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards; Final Rule” was released on December 26, 2013
• The “Omnicircular” 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
Omni

- NCURA Omni webinar on 5/14/14 (thanks for attending!)
- Northwestern remains in a strategic waiting period, cannot meaningfully institutionally plan without the agencies’ plans
- But here’s the latest:
  - NSF has provided their plan for implementing the Omni
  - The other agencies’ plans are due by next Thursday (6/26/14)
- More soon
DOE National Laboratories

• Two DOE national labs in Illinois: Argonne National Laboratory and Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory
• Northwestern has strong connections with both
• Northwestern-Argonne Institute for Science & Engineering (NAISE; http://naise.northwestern.edu/)
DOE National Laboratories

• Increasing collaboration with labs at proposal and award stages
• Northwestern has Basic Ordering Agreements (BOAs), similar to master agreements, with Argonne and Los Alamos; User Agreement with Brookhaven
• Industry interested in leveraging our relationship with labs
• Tripartite relationships are important, and will grow in importance
• UIDP
• Office for Government Relations
Training Materials and Upcoming Events

• Checklists:
  http://www.research.northwestern.edu/osr/training.html
    – Admin Shell
    – NIH, NSF
    – More soon

• Upcoming Brown Bags:
  – Standard Research Agreement
  – National Lab Interactions

• ORI Tool: Research-Related PI Onboarding Checklist:
  http://www.research.northwestern.edu/ori/responsibleresearch/practical-resources.html
Recent Highlights in Our Sponsored World

• DOE Energy Frontier Research Centers (EFRCs)

• Northwestern-Boeing master agreement

• Master Research Funding Agreement with the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF)
Questions?