May 8 – OSP Advanced Budget Workshop

Location: MLK Library, Room 255/257  |  Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  |  RSVP by May 2

An important part of writing a successful grant proposal is developing a budget that clearly expresses the cost of your research project. Where do you begin when creating your budget? For example, do you plan to hire students, purchase supplies, rent space, or attend conferences? How will these costs affect your proposed budget? This workshop will be a step-by-step primer on the components of a proposal budget and how best to build a budget in response to an RFP (request for proposal). Major line items in a typical budget will be discussed in detail. Important topics such as salaries, cost-sharing, facilities and administrative costs, and allowable costs will be addressed. Come prepared with specific budget questions or a proposal budget already in progress.

RSVP to Carmina Som at foundation-osp-infoservices@sjsu.edu.

NIH eRA System Upgrade—May Application Due Dates Adjusted

During the three-day Memorial Day weekend, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will upgrade its electronic Research Administration (eRA) systems to support recognition of Unicode—an international encoding standard that allows systems to handle virtually any type of text expressed in the world’s writing systems. “As a result of this upgrade, eRA systems will be able to accept Greek characters as they appear in the original scientific text submitted by grantees,” according to NIH. Please note that since Grants.gov does not yet support Unicode, applicants should only use the newly supported characters in the PDF attachments of their applications.

As described in NIH Guide Notice NOT-OD-14-071, this upgrade requires all eRA systems, including the eRA Commons and ASSIST, Internet Assisted Review, and others to be taken offline for the three-day Memorial Day weekend. Systems will be unavailable to users beginning Friday, May 23 at 9 p.m. EDT. Full service is expected to be restored Tuesday, May 27 at 7:00 a.m. EDT. To minimize negative impact on applicants who may be preparing applications due between May 25-28, NIH has extended those application deadlines to May 29.

For further details see:
Extramural NEXUS
NOT-OD-14-070
NOT-OD-14-071

SJSURF Fringe Benefit Rates for 2014–2015

Each year the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) reviews the SJSURF fringe benefit rate forecast and is tasked with final rate determination. The final approved rates are expected from DHHS in June 2014, and will become effective July 1, 2014. In the meantime, the forecasted rates to use in proposal submittals are:

- Regular (Full Time) Employees: 45.8%
- Hourly and Part-Time Employees: 10.7%
- Students: 10.7%

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**NIH and AHRQ Announce Updated Policy for Application Submission**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) recently announced a policy change for application submissions. Effective April 17, 2014, following a declined resubmission (A1) proposal, an applicant can now revise and submit that proposal a third time as a new (A0) proposal. The resubmission of a proposal as “new” means:

- the proposal will be considered without an association to a previous submission.
- the proposal will not need to include an introduction to describe how the application has changed or a response to previous critiques.
- reviewers will be instructed to treat the proposal as a new idea even if they have seen it in previous review cycles.

NIH’s policy for accepting overlapping applications has not changed (see NOT-OD-09-100). This means that the NIH will not accept:

- a new (A0) application that is submitted before issuance of the summary statement from the review of an overlapping resubmission (A1) application.
- a resubmission (A1) application that is submitted before issuance of the summary statement from the review of the previous new (A0) application.
- an application that has substantial overlap with another application pending appeal of initial peer review (see NOT-OD-11-101).

The NIH time limit for accepting resubmission (A1) applications has not changed (see NOT-OD-12-128 and NOT-OD-10-140). If an applicant chooses to submit an A1 proposal, then the re-submittal must be submitted no later than 37 months after the related A0 proposal was submitted.

For further details, see:


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**NIH Begins Big Data Initiative**

In its effort to make Big Data accessible to the biomedical workforce the National Institutes of Health has taken on the challenge of creating the Big Data to Knowledge (BD2K) Initiative. The primary focus of this initiative is to develop new approaches, standards, methods, tools, software, and competencies to enhance the use of biomedical Big Data. The initiative will support research, implementation, and training in data science and other relevant fields. To assist new BD2K users, NIH hosted a workshop in 2013 and then made available two videos ([Big Data 1 Knowledge](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-14-074.html)) and ([Big Data 2 Knowledge](http://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2014/04/17/blog-on-nih-policy-notice-14-074/)) to help early career scientists better understand the research efficacies of Big Data for their ongoing projects. “The BD2K website serves as a hub for NIH Big Data news, events, and funding opportunities, currently highlighting two opportunities to support faculty who want to acquire Big Data skills: Courses for Skills Development in Biomedical Big Data Science (R25) and Open Educational Resources for Biomedical Big Data (R25).” Although 2014 deadlines have passed, these two programs will also be offered in 2015 and 2016.

Material from 4/14 GrantWeek, with permission from the Grants Resource Center.

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**Proposal Routing During the Summer Months**

It is always strongly recommended that you notify your sponsored programs manager at the Research Foundation as soon as you know that you plan to submit a proposal, and well in advance of the sponsor’s submittal deadlines. This is especially important during the summer months, as some of the proposal signers may change their schedules or reduce their hours on campus. Keep in mind that routing a proposal for review and signature may take longer during the summer than during the regular school year. Please also note that sponsors continually ask institutions to submit their proposals prior to the actual published deadline. Our goal is to submit at least two (2) working days before a published deadline. To allow adequate time for processing, and to ensure successful submission, Sponsored Programs Managers must have completed proposals ready for routing and review by authorized signers at least seven (7) working days prior to the planned submission date.
Fellowships and Scholarships
The SJSU Research Foundation receives notification of fellowship and scholarship opportunities for faculty and students. Highlights this month include:

Program: USA Fellowships for Women in Science
Agency: L’Oreal USA
Deadline: May 19, 2014

Program: 2014 EPA Greater Research Opportunities (GRO) Fellowships for Undergraduate Environmental Study
Agency: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Deadline: May 27, 2014

Program: OVC FY 2014 Tribal Victim Assistance Professional Development Fellowship Program
Agency: Department of Justice
Deadline: June 2, 2014

Program: BJA Visiting Fellows Program
Agency: Department of Justice
Deadline: June 4, 2014

Program: NIJ FY 14 Tribal Program Postdoctoral Research Associate Fellowship
Agency: Department of Justice
Deadline: June 10, 2014

Program: Graduate Equity Fellowship
Agency: SJSU Office of Graduate Studies & Research
Deadline: June 20, 2014