The long-awaited guidance from the Office of Management and Budget was published to Regulations.gov and FederalRegister.gov on December 26th. This new guidance “supersedes and streamlines requirements from OMB Circulars A-21, A-87, A-110, and A-122…Circulars A-89, A-102, and A-133; and the guidance in Circular A-50 on Single Audit Act follow-up.”

Compliance with the new guidance is expected to become auditable for activity beginning 12/26/14 and onward, allowing time for transition.

Entitled Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, the guidance will inform how all sponsored projects at institutions receiving Federal funds are managed for the foreseeable future.

Continued on page 8
On behalf of UT Austin’s Researchers, in the months September 2013 through December 2013, SPAA has handled several audits/reviews:

- Defense Contract Audit Agency desk audit on a Federal project,
- Deloitte AFR Audit on Federal grants,
- State Auditor’s Office Audits (A-133 and SEFA),
- The University of Texas El Paso (UTEP) completed a desk audit on funds they passed through to our university.

If you are contacted about an audit, please contact SPAA oa.jrichter@austin.utexas.edu. SPAA is available to assist with the audit process and can serve as your liaison with the auditors.

Effort Reporting

Many thanks to each PI and Co-PI for carefully certifying their own effort and/or the effort of their project teams.

The help of the Effort Contacts, most of whom fulfill many roles within their organization (project management, HR, accounting, research administration, etc.) is more valuable than words can express.

Kudos to these, and all of the excellent Effort Contacts! All-Star Effort Contacts for this past Fall include:

- Gale Ashley & Julie Duiker
- Irene Lam
- Frances Lemear
- Danielle Nestler
- Kamar Nassor
- Charla Carrington
- John Ermis
- All the Clearing Account folks: Carol Morgan, Karen White, Brenda Nelson, etc.

New HHS Salary Cap Increase

“The President [of the U.S.] has signed an Executive order to implement the January 2014 pay adjustments...The Executive order authorizes a 1 percent across-the-board increase...The 2014 pay schedules will become effective...January 12, 2014...” Chcoc.gov

Executive Level II, the salary level for PIs & Co-PIs, has increased to $181,500.

This allows our university to recover more funds for our top-tier researchers with HHS grants, and to reduce our university’s cost sharing burden.

The NIH Announcement and Salary Cap Summary page.
Advocacy
With President Powers serving as chairman of the Association of American Universities (AAU), The University of Texas at Austin is well-positioned to effect and influence Federal regulations that impact Federal funding of university research. In addition, the Office of Sponsored Projects is active in the efforts of the Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) and the Council on Governmental Relations (COGR).

Federally funded principal investigators spend 42 percent of their research time devoted to administrative tasks as documented in the groundbreaking survey conducted by the Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) in 2005, and as replicated in the 2012 follow-up survey. While concerns about this alarming fact have resulted in additional studies with very similar findings, little has been done to reduce this workload. Research administration offices have attempted to absorb the majority of the additional burdens associated with new regulations that have been imposed in the interim with little if any additional resources. The much anticipated Uniform Guidance (2 CFR 200) does not appear to offer much relief and in some cases will exacerbate the problem. COGR works to educate and advocate for regulations and policies and the FDP continues to strive to streamline processes to ensure Principal Investigators spend more time on science and administrative requirements can be accomplished effectively and efficiently. – Dr. Susan W. Sedwick

Statistics
SPAA’s FY 12-13 Service Summary
Total Amount Invoice Method → over $239 million dollars.
Total Amount Draw Method → over $257 million dollars.
Active Accounts Managed → over 3,300 ongoing.
Total Number of Invoices → over 12,100 invoices.
An average of over 1,000 invoices per month sent to sponsors and processed by SPAA.
Total charges to clearing accounts → nearly $6.5 million dollars.

The above services (and more) provided by SPAA staff dedicated to helping make research happen. Stats provided by David Dockwiller
Meet Amanda Alvarez, Grants & Contracts Specialist in SPAA.

How many years have you been with OSP?
I have worked for UT Austin for 10 years, 4 years in SPAA.

What motivates you in your work?
I really enjoy helping others especially in the line of work we do, “helping make research happen.”

Why do you prefer to work here at UT Austin, rather than another institution or organization?
I’m from Austin and graduated from UT Austin. Being a true Austinite UT Austin was the only school I wanted to attend so being able to work here is a bonus. It’s a great campus with diversity. There is always something happening on campus.

What do you wish UT’s PIs and Research Administrators knew about SPAA? That we are always here to help them! We encourage questions and are willing to help them every step of the way.

What do you enjoy here on the UT Austin campus?
I love the atmosphere. There is never a dull moment.

What are your hobbies?
I enjoy running especially around campus. It gives me a peace of mind. Now that I have an 11-month-old it’s hard to do anything else but chase her around! She’s a lot of fun and keeps me real busy.

Where do you enjoy dining here on the 40 acres?
I love food! There are always cool new spots to try around.

What would you like the PIs and Research Administrators at UT Austin to remember about you?
That I was very helpful and nice. 😊
Winter Season Joy

OSP SPAA had a cheerful office decorating competition in December. Here is a taste of the creative designs OSP SPAA teammates brought in with their own supplies from home.

Continued on the next page.
Celebrations

Continued on the next page.
Celebrations

Continued from the previous page.

Warm Winter Wishes From OSP
Please Join Us In Congratulating…

Catharine Corder, Courtney Swaney, and David Hawkins on CRA Certification! ★

http://www.cra-cert.org/

The new guidance is certain to be a focus of many of the professional development offerings in 2014 and 2015. Already ManagingFederalGrants.com has provided an article in their newsletter. OSP’s Research Information Services is preparing communications to our campus to promote awareness. At our institution changes are unlikely to be drastic, as UT System policy and UT Austin policy have historically set rigorous expectations. In a few instances the guidance may allow burden-reducing innovations.