It is spring evaluation time. SPAA staff members are preparing to submit their self-evaluations to the directors. Assistant Director, David Dockwiller requests your feedback.

Have you had recent interaction with a member of the post-award administration team here in SPAA that particularly stands out in your mind?

Please email your feedback to: 

oa.ddockwiller@austin.utexas.edu
Sponsored Projects Award Administration

Newsletter -- Service

Statistics Worth Repeating:
SPAA’s FY 08-09 Service Summary

• Total Amount Brought In Invoice Method -- approximately $228.5 million dollars
• Total Amount Draw Method -- over $172.5 million dollars
• Active Accounts Managed -- an average of 4,000 ongoing
• Total Number of Invoices -- over 11,000 invoices
• Reports Processed -- over 6,000 reports

The above services provided by a staff dedicated to helping make research happen.

Audits
On behalf of UT Austin’s Researchers, in the months January through March 2010, SPAA has/will handle:
* A visit from the National Science Foundation (NSF) OIG
* Audits by U.S. Department of Health & Humans Services

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.

Account Contact Duty Redistribution

Account Contact Melinda McGlaun will be on leave in March. Planned temporary Account Contact assignments to care for Melinda’s accounts:
26-32- – Tania Tost
26-35- – Barry Stewart
26-63- – Mike Martindale
26-89- – Tania Tost

SPAA’s Directors celebrated the service of Angela and A.E. this quarter.
**Effort Reporting**

Here are the Facts:

**Fact 1:** The university’s actively sponsored research community has the obligation to comply with U.S. federal regulation, UT System policy, and policy of The University of Texas at Austin. System policy designates a 30-day window. Due to our size, Austin policy expands to a 45-day window. Timeline:
- Day 1 will be 4/19/10.
- Day 30 Deans will be contacted for help will be 5/18/10.
- Day 45 will be 6/2/10. Deans will be contacted again for help.

**Fact 2:** The university has provided an enhanced online tool, ECS.

**Fact 3:** The university has provided a Central Effort Coordinator to assist ECS users. Support Services:
- Led groups of volunteers in testing the user interface
- Collected user feedback and communicated quality and efficiency improvement ideas to the ECS development team
- Created Captivate videos demonstrating ECS
- Authored 30 pages of searchable help content, the Users’ Guide
- Will be providing in-person training for faculty and staff

**Fact 4:** Training is available.
- CW 520 Recommended for all ECS users per policy.
- SP 601 Effort Reporting Concepts for newer researchers and staff.
- SP 602 Advancements in Online Effort Reporting, updates on ECS.

Those are the facts. Contact A.E. Always at effort@austin.utexas.edu

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**Welch Reporting Season**

Recipients should look for emails from SPAA’s Kristin Cress in April, May, and June in preparation for the Welch financial reporting deadline **July 15th**. Welch reports require original signatures from their PIs. Kristin works with UT’s Welch recipients in advance to plan the most convenient time for PIs to sign after Kristin prepares the reports for them in June. Kristin Cress is a great resource for questions about Welch financial reporting. Her e-mail: cress@austin.utexas.edu

Info about the Welch Foundation Grants and Awards is available here: [http://www.welch1.org/](http://www.welch1.org/)

**Note:** Faculty salary is no longer an allowable cost on Welch Foundation awards.

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**ECS Upgrade**

Previews of the new version of ECS planned for release in April 2010 are available on OSP’s effort reporting Web site: [http://www.utexas.edu/research/osp/effort_reporting.html](http://www.utexas.edu/research/osp/effort_reporting.html)

Communications regarding training opportunities continue via the Principal Investigator and Research Administrators Network (RAN) **UT Lists**.

**Cheers for Testing Volunteers!**

The following people saved this Spring’s ECS users a lot of frustration by testing the ECS Upgrades in advance and suggesting improvements:

- Jan Duffy, Dorothy Gillette, Nikki Goodfellow, Alisha Hall, Emily Hooks, Leticia Honstein, Carol Morgan, Barbara Morris, Billie Pierce, Gail Seale, Vicki Stratton, Kathy Thatcher, Lizet Villagrana, and Jennifer Wagner.
Meet Kathy Peterson, Senior Federal I Team Leader in SPAA.

How many years have you been with OSP?

What do you enjoy here on the UT campus?
There is always something going on. Since our office is located in MAI we get to enjoy a lot of the student activities that take place right outside of our building.

What are your hobbies?
Is shopping on QVC considered a hobby? LOL! My house has a large front porch surrounded by flowerbeds, bird feeders and several water fountains. I enjoy making it a relaxing retreat to treasure in the evenings and weekends. I also cherish time spent reading and taking a ride on our Harley.

What motivates you in your work?
I love to solve a problem - doing the research work to finally get to the solution! Also, the great management team within our office. They continuously acknowledge a job well done which motivates everyone.

What do you wish UT Austin’s PIs and Research Administrators knew about SPAA?
I would like the campus to know that we have a very dedicated staff that works very hard to serve them and the sponsors, and to ensure compliance with all regulations.
CRA
SPAA's Tania Tost has hosted study sessions for central and departmental research administrators wanting to achieve Certified Research Administrator status every other Monday since September. Passing the CRA exam requires correctly answering hundreds of detailed questions about all aspects of research administration. Interested in being a CRA and showing your expertise? www.cra-cert.org
Interested in future study sessions? Ask Jason Richter at oa.jrichter@austin.utexas.edu

NIH Salary Cap - Effective January 2010 the current salary rate is $199,700. If a PI’s salary is over the cap, when they propose for an NIH award they should identify a university account for cost sharing the difference. The NIH Salary cap is a prorated requirement. For effort reporting, salary in excess of the cap should be shown as "contributed effort". Questions? NIHcap@austin.utexas.edu
Look of the new, updated rate cap in January:

New NSF Revised Award and Administration Guide
Effective January 2010

Research Administration Professional Development

- **South Padre Island, TX**
The NCURA Region V Spring Meeting will take place April 25-28, 2010 at the Sheraton Beach Hotel.
Last year’s meeting was great. High hopes for this Spring!

More information:
http://www.ncuraregionv.com/spring-meeting10.htm

- **San Antonio, TX** March 3–5, 2010
NCURA FRA XI Conference: Adapting, Recovering, Repositioning, Advancing

- **UT Austin** in ACES via telecast - March 23, 2010
NCURA Presents First NCURATV Program for Department Administrators.
Look for more info on TXClass and via the RAN listserv.

OSP SPAA has helpful content posted in askUS. Can’t find an answer there? Post a question and we’ll get you the answer.