SPAA Ensures That It Pays to Do Research at UT Austin

How does the Sponsored Projects Award Administration (SPAA) section of the Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP) support the research community?

- Submission of financial reports (number submitted for 1 yr = 4,376)
- Submission of patent reports (number submitted for 1 yr = 526)
- Processing of award closeouts (number processed for 1 yr = 1,552)
- Active Accounts Overseen (number for 1 yr = ~6000)
- Clearing Account Transactions Overseen (dollars for 1 yr = over $6.5 million)
- Submission of invoices (number submitted for 1 yr = over 12,200)
- Funds invoiced from sponsors (dollars for 1 yr = about $262.4 million)
- Drawing funds weekly from federal sponsors (dollars for 1 yr = over $212.8 million)
- Collection of receivables (averaging ~ $56 million recurring)
- Set-up of accounts
- Assisting departments to interpret award terms regarding allowability
- Oversight of semi-annual effort certification
- Audit liaison service (including both institutional and program audits)
- Submission of annual research expenditure data to both the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
- Submission of weekly research expenditure data to the Texas State Comptrollers Office
- Preparation of annual research reports for the institution’s Annual Financial Report submitted to the State Comptrollers Office
- A variety of other services.

SPAA supports the research community and works to provide effective stewardship to the research sponsors. To that end, it is the mission of OSP to fulfill those duties while Helping Make Research Happen.
Sponsored Projects Award Administration Newsletter -- Service

Audits & Desk Reviews

On behalf of UT Austin’s Researchers, in the months January through March 2013, SPAA has/will handle several audits/reviews:

→ HHS OIG Closeout Audit
→ TCEQ Audit

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.

DHHS NIH & CPRIT Salary Cap Support

Together we face the challenge of compliance with the salary limitation issued by Congress effective for projects with new funding increments awarded after 12/22/12. Resources from SPAA:

Announcement: Summer Salary Exceeding the NIH or CPRIT Salary Cap http://www.utexas.edu/research/osp/news/salary_cap.html

Calculator: www.utexas.edu/research/osp/documents/nih_hhs_salary_cap_calculator.xls

Joy Hatch and A.E. Always are glad to answer your questions.

Pursuing Higher Education

Angela Murphy, SPAA Senior Grants & Contracts Specialist, is utilizing her Staff Education Benefit to earn credits towards a Masters of Science degree in the School of Information at The University of Texas at Austin. Her SPAA team is behind her and cheering.

www.utexas.edu/hr/current/career/seb.html

Keeping Knowledgeable With Training

Beck, Hannah Marie (Both)
Brown, Evelyn K (Both)
Campbell, Sarah Rhys (Both)
Clough, Sara (Both)
Garcia-Holmes, Katherine (Both)
Gilbert, Amy (Both)
Holt, Mary (Both)
Ozuna, Derrick (Both)
Prueitt, Miranda (Both)
Snyder, Susan (Both)
Tomlinson, Stephanie (Both)
Wilson, Dustin (Both)

Departments Benefitting:
BEG
Biomedical Engineering
Diversity & Community Engage
ICES
ICMB
Internal Audit
Mechanical Engineering
Physics
Texas Materials Institute

Introducing Laurie

The friendly face first greeting you in the SPAA office is Laurie Coleman. Laurie has lived in Austin for about 2 years. She enjoys Austin’s music events, outdoor activities, and natural watering holes. Before working for SPAA, Laurie worked for the McCombs School of Business.
Congratulations to Amanda Alvarez & Her Family on the Birth of their Baby Girl!

Amanda’s career in SPAA began at the front desk and has ascended quickly. She most recently served on the State and Private Billing team. Amanda has accepted a new role on the Grants & Contracts Specialist team.

Amanda has been enjoying time at home with her new little princess and her family. We look forward to her return in early May.
Meet Chaz Gardinier, State & Private Team Leader in SPAA

How many years have you been with OSP?
I have worked for the University of Texas for 6 years, all of which have been with OSP - SPAA.

What do you enjoy here on the UT Austin campus?
Our campus is a great place to explore. Not only are there new buildings going up on every corner, but old buildings are regularly being renovated. The constant changes make for an environment that never feels monotonous or dull. Instead, it is easy to feel inspired and energized by our surroundings.

What motivates you in your work?
My motivation is primarily personal. A lifelong perfectionist, I set very high standards for my work. I am also largely motivated by the extraordinary people that I have the pleasure to work beside. The enthusiasm and dedication they exhibit on a daily basis often encourages me to do my best work.

What are your hobbies?
I spend a lot of my free time reading. I particularly enjoy reading the classics from authors like Charles Dickens, Thomas Hardy and Leo Tolstoy. When I’m feeling energetic, I enjoy swimming laps. Growing up a competitive swimmer, I never lost my zest for sprinting across the pool.

Why do you prefer to work here at UT Austin, rather than another institution or organization?
The University offers an atmosphere like no other. From the ever changing campus landscape to the extraordinary events and activities taking place on campus, there is always something going on. It feels good to be a part of it.

Where do you enjoy dining here on the 40 acres?
When I get the opportunity, O’s Campus Café at ACES is my first dining choice on campus. Try the “entrée O’ the day”, it never disappoints.

What would you like the PIs and Research Administrators at UT Austin to remember about you?
I am always open to suggestions for improved efficiency. If I can streamline a process or initiate a procedure to reduce the occurrence of errors or inconsistency, then I am happy to do so. Working together, we are more likely to reach our goals.
Sponsored Projects Award Administration Newsletter -- Awareness

★ Professional Development Opportunities ★

“Technology Transfer Issues for the Research Administrator”
Thursday, March 7, 2013 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. NOA 5.318
SP202 via TXClass utdirect.utexas.edu/txclass/index.WBX

NCURA FRA in New Orleans, LA on March 10-12, 2013
http://collaborate.ncura.edu/FRA14/Home/

NIH Salary Cap Status Quo: Executive Level II

FDP January 2013 Meeting Presentations
http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/fdp/PGA_081164

OMR Proposed Uniform Guidance on Grants (Comment by 5/2)
http://youtu.be/dlZfb9ALBck
Related COFAR Message
http://cfo.gov/cofar/

What does Sequestration mean to Research?
http://www.srainternational.org/sra03/template/tntbAB.cfm?id=5632

“Export Controls and other Security Concerns”
Thursday, April 4, 2013 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. NOA 5.318
SP203 via TXClass utdirect.utexas.edu/txclass/index.WBX

SRA International SW/West Section Meeting
San Antonio, TX on April 7—10, 2013
http://www.srainternational.org/sra03/index.cfm

NCURA Region V Meeting in Oklahoma City, OK
on April 21-24, 2013
http://www.ncuraregionv.com/

NSF Events:
http://www.nsf.gov/events/

Are there topics you would like to nominate for special training opportunities? Let us know by emailing Henrike at h.dehaas@austin.utexas.edu or Tania at ttos t@aus tin.utexas.edu

*** Congratulations to our Newest OSP CRAs ***
Sarah Fella, Shannon McCain, Bob McGarrett, and Christian Pfeiffer-Flores
http://www.cra-cert.org