NSF DATA MANAGEMENT PLANS

Beginning January 18, 2011, proposals submitted to NSF must include a supplementary document of no more than two pages labeled “Data Management Plan”. This supplementary document should describe how the proposal will conform to NSF policy on the dissemination and sharing of research results.

The Dartmouth Digital Initiative Committee has formed a working group to review the new requirements and identify resources and tools for Dartmouth researchers who are preparing NSF grant applications. This is the first of a series of communications to inform researchers of the new requirements and to solicit input that will assist us in developing guidance.

Because each discipline has its own culture and norms concerning data, researchers will need to consider their own unique data needs when developing plans. The mandatory data plan will be a maximum of 2 pages. Some NSF Directorates have developed their own guidance document to assist researchers in developing plans. In addition, the definition of what constitutes data is broad and includes “data, samples, physical collections, software, curriculum materials and other materials produced in the course of the project.”

The Data Management Plan will be reviewed as an integral part of the proposal, coming under Intellectual Merit or Broader Impacts or both, as appropriate for the scientific community of relevance.

NSF has posted information, FAQs and other guidance at http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/dmp.jsp. Additional guidance will be posted on the OSP website soon.

NEW ON-LINE CONFLICT OF INTEREST SYSTEM AVAILABLE FOR USE

The new on-line research conflict of interest system is ready for use and will become required for all proposals submitted through OSP effective January 1, 2011. The system replaces the paper-based process which relied on annual disclosures and a certification by the PI on the proposal routing form.

The new web-based system allows each person listed as “key personnel” to log into a secure portal using their Dartmouth ID and password. Prior to submission of a proposal, the system allows faculty to log in to enter related to their sponsored project.

The new system will become mandatory for proposals submitted on or after January 1, 2011.

A resource web site and access to the system can be found on the OSP website at http://www.dartmouth.edu/~osp/resources/policies/dartmouth/rcoi.html

OSP will hold additional training sessions in January. Dates to be announced soon.

Happy Holidays!

OSP will be closed the afternoon of December 9th for our Holiday Party

Miss the Roundtable?

If you missed the November 10, 2010 OSP Roundtable, the handouts are available on the OSP website. http://www.dartmouth.edu/~osp/resources/roundtablematerials.html

What is FFATA and why is it showing up on my award notices?

For federal awards received after October 29, 2010, you may notice a new requirement called FFATA. The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 continues the effort to provide information to the public on use of federal funds.

The latest step towards transparency is providing subaward information via a publicly accessible website. OSP is currently reviewing the requirements and developing plans to assure compliance.

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FFATA is a federal law that requires all federal awards to be made by a certifying official in the agency. The law also requires that the agency makes the subaward data publicly available in a publicly accessible website. The website is accessible at http://www.f扬g.gov/awards/subaward.

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Revised Grants Policy Statement

Effective October 1, 2010, revision superseded the December 2003 version

- Incorporates policy changes since 12/03, public policy changes, clarification of existing policies
- Includes new chapters recommended by users (Career Awards, Multiple PD/PI), terminology changes as well as document enhancements.
- Improves organization of existing chapters
- Applicable to awards issued with budget start dates on or after 10/1/2010

Proposal Preparation Costs Allowable as a Direct Charge for Mentored Career Development Awards

Mentored Career Development Award (CDA) programs provide support with a goal of leading to research independence for an individual. Research independence is achieved through applying for other research support. Consistent with these objectives, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) announces that it is allowable for effort devoted to proposal preparation for subsequent research support to be charged as a direct cost to a mentored CDA. This can be considered part of the awarded effort commitment of the CDA or an increase to that commitment within the allowable salary provided as applicable.

THE END OF AN ERA FOR ERRORS: NIH ELIMINATES THE CORRECTION WINDOW

It has been many years since NIH began using electronic submission of grant applications through grants.gov.

In the early years, NIH anticipated problems with the system and the new processes. To avoid jeopardizing submissions while accommodating “hiccups” in grants.gov, NIH afforded Principal Investigators a window of time after the deadline to address system errors.

Over the years, the federal government was able to smooth out many of the wrinkles with the system. As stated in the 8/16/2010 issue of the NIH Guide:

The error correction window originally was implemented in December 2005 as a temporary measure to facilitate the transition from paper to electronic submission of grant applications.

Five years later, NIH is now eliminating the error correction window. Effective January 25, 2011, applications submitted after the deadline will be considered late and may not be considered for review.

OSP is taking this opportunity to remind faculty of the necessity of the Dartmouth deadline policy which requires submission to the agency two days prior to the sponsor deadline. This internal policy is designed to allow time to correct errors and avoid rejections by the sponsor.

While we bid the NIH error window adieu, we must remember that DOD and NSF never offered a grace period.

For information, review http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/notice-files/NOT-OD-10-123.html

Labor Verification Reports have been sent out. If you are paid from a federal grant, you are required to sign annually.

Please have a great holiday and don’t forget to sign and return your labor verification report.