



Dartmouth College

Office of Sponsored Projects
11 Rope Ferry Road, #6210
Hanover, NH 03755-1404

TELEPHONE: (603) 646-3007

FAX: (603) 646-3670

EMAIL: sponsored.projects@dartmouth.edu

August 21, 2007

Dear Colleagues,

Over the past 12 months there have been several changes in the process for submitting proposals and setting up award accounts. As many of you are aware, several changes have been dictated by new electronic processes in federal proposal submission through the web based system Grants.Gov. The implementation of a new complex financial general ledger system including the sponsored projects financial system OGA is a learning experience for us all.

The increased deadline for Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP) proposal processing to 10 days for Grants.Gov submission, while not a popular requirement, did allow OSP and departments to become familiar with the Grants.Gov system and the timing of error messages to meet the agencies deadline. We all learned a great deal, and while not all research agencies are using Grants.Gov and there are still some complex proposals that have not been tested in the Grants.Gov system, OSP has reviewed our need for the 10 day time frame for proposal review. The OSP pre-award team has agreed and Martin Wybourne concurs that for now, reducing the proposal deadline from 10 days to 5 days for Grants.Gov and complex proposals would be workable. Effective September 5, 2007, OSP will institute the 5 day proposal deadline for Grants.Gov submission and complex proposals. As always with any submission, the earlier the proposal is received in our office, the earlier we can review and submit to prevent an electronic overload on the agency servers the last day of the deadline.

With the implementation in July of the new Oracle grants accounting system, OGA, OSP stopped taking requests for pre-award accounts because of difficulties in creating account strings. We now have a better understanding of the new system and beginning September 5, 2007, OSP will again be taking requests for pre-award OGA accounting strings. We will try to accommodate the requests where the type of funding reimbursement is known. Other process changes may occur over the next 6 months as OSP and Administrative Computing look at ways to streamline a very complex, labor intensive award set up system.

Some faculty have experienced a delay in award set-up because to be in compliance with federal requirements we need a conflict of interest disclosure form and an invention agreement on file before an award can be issued. Over the next several months we expect that fewer awards will be held up as our process improves. I am working closely with Martin Wybourne and Liz Bankert in the Provost's office to reorganize the research conflict of interest process. Over the next six months OSP will be testing an online system that will be used to collect and maintain information - we anticipate this will streamline the process for both researchers and the OSP staff.

The Office of Sponsored Projects wants to thank you all for your cooperation and understanding during these transitional times in the electronic sponsored world. As always, we look forward to comments and suggestions as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Nancy Wray,

Director, Office of Sponsored Projects