



OFFICE OF Sponsored Programs

a unit of the Office of Research

June 2, 2017

The latest news and important updates regarding sponsored grant proposals, awards, and compliance.

IN THIS ISSUE

[OSP Staff Changes](#)

[Proposed 2018 Federal Budget](#)

[NSF Eliminates Proposal Deadlines for Several Programs](#)

[Using Grants.gov Workspace](#)

[WISPER Clean-Up in June](#)

[End of Year Review](#)

[Nominations for EPA's Board of Scientific Counselors](#)

[Call for Research Proposals: UWM I/UCRC](#)

OSP Staff Changes



Jean Wolfgang, Post-Award Specialist, has accepted the position of Bursar at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. We congratulate Jean in her new role and wish her every success. Jean's last day at UWM was May 31. Questions regarding effort reporting or invoices should be directed to Carla Durand (durandc@uwm.edu), Assistant Director of Post-Award Services, in the Office of Sponsored Programs.



Jess Stroud, Grants and Contracts Specialist, has accepted the position of Manager, Grant Support in the UWM College of Engineering & Applied Science. In this role Jess will serve as a project manager for larger-scale collaborative proposals and center initiatives, with a strong emphasis in award management. We wish Jess the very best in her new position and look forward to working with her in this new role. Jess's last day in OSP is June 16. Questions regarding export control, compliance, subawards, and contracts should be sent to or-osp-contracts@uwm.edu.

The position announcement for an Associate Director of Pre-Award Administration is now posted; applications are due by June 6. OSP will post the position announcements for the remaining vacancies as soon as possible. **Questions?** Please contact Tom Marcussen (marcusse@uwm.edu), Director, Office of Sponsored Programs.

Proposal Development

Proposed 2018 Federal Budget



The White House has released its [2018 Fiscal Year Federal Budget](#), which proposes deep cuts to education, energy, and Medicaid, as well as to eliminate funding for 19 granting agencies. While the proposed budget works its way through Congress, it's important to remember that much of it will change and the federal agencies most at risk by the proposed cuts may take less of a hit than is expected.

In light of the proposed budget, many researchers are unsure whether to submit applications to federal agencies. While the future is uncertain, researchers should continue to submit proposals until the final budget is passed by Congress and the granting agencies issue more resolute direction on their grant-making abilities, policies, and procedures. The Office of Sponsored Programs is monitoring the federal budget process closely and will provide as much information and direction to the campus community as it becomes available.

NSF Eliminates Proposal Deadlines for Several Programs



The National Science Foundation has announced the removal of deadlines for proposals to several programs.

According to NSF, "By accepting proposals at any time, investigators will have greater opportunities to prepare proposals, build strong collaborations, and think more creatively resulting in more complex, interdisciplinary projects that have the

potential to dramatically advance science. We anticipate that the elimination of deadlines will increase proposal success rate and reduce the burden on institutions and the community by expanding the submission period over the course of the year.”

The programs affected by this new policy include:

- [Marine Geology and Geophysics Program](#) (MGG) in the Division of Ocean Sciences. **New proposals will be accepted anytime after July 1, 2017.** See the [FAQ page](#) for additional information.
- [Biological and Environmental Interactions of Nanoscale Materials Program](#), in the Division of Chemical, Biological, Environmental, and Transport Systems (CBET). **New proposals will be accepted after July 20, 2017.**
- The programs [Tectonics, Petrology and Geochemistry, Geophysics, and EarthScope](#), in the Division of Earth Sciences (EAR). **New proposals will be accepted after July 24, 2017.** This date was selected to mitigate delays that might be associated with relocation of the NSF staff and services to a new headquarters building. In addition, EAR intends to sunset the EarthScope Science program at the end of fiscal year 2018; thus, proposals will not be accepted by this program after February 10, 2018.

Pre-Award Administration

Using Grants.gov Workspace



OSP has received lots of questions from UWM researchers about the new [Grants.gov Workspace](#) feature. Pre-Award staff is actively testing Workspace and developing training sessions and guidance materials, which will be rolled out in late summer. In the meantime, we do not recommend using Workspace until we complete our testing and have worked out the technical issues. If you wish to use Workspace for an upcoming application before we complete our testing, here are our observations and clarifications about using Workspace for Grants.gov submissions thus far:

Workspace allows multi-user collaboration, but not in real time. Multiple users can access a submission and begin working on a form; however, once a user begins working on a form, it's locked for editing by any other user. The SF424 R&R form used for most NIH submissions has multiple attachments, and most research teams work on various components of these forms individually while developing a submission. In Workspace, only one user at a time can work on the SF424 R&R form.

You can reuse application forms, but PIs are responsible for ensuring use of the correct form. If you wish to reuse an SF424 form from a previous submission, you must make sure that the form is correct, the form number has not changed, and that the form has not expired. If the form is incorrect, the application will be returned without review.

Multiple users can work on an application, but each user is responsible for obtaining access. Each user needs their own Grants.gov username and password. “Guest” access to application packages in Workspace is not allowed. For collaborators outside of UWM, their home institution must provide a Grants.gov username and password.

Given these challenges with Workspace, OSP currently does not recommend using at this time. PIs should continue to download the Adobe Forms application package for submissions through Grants.gov. **Questions?** Please contact your [Pre-Award Specialist](#).

WISPER Clean-Up During June



In June the Pre-Award Administrators will be cleaning up WISPER records. During this time campus administrators and Principal Investigators may be contacted by Pre-Award staff to verify the status of submissions. Our goal is to ensure that data associated with proposal submissions and awards remain accurate, which is only possible through accurate WISPER records. If you have questions about our data integrity efforts, please contact your [Pre-Award Specialist](#).

Post-Award Administration

End of Year Review



Now that the spring semester has ended and the weather is improving, we are all eager to start our summer plans. But before you go into full summer mode, **please take a few minutes to review the status of your research grants**. As we approach the end of the fiscal year, make sure that all appropriate expenses incurred within your project periods have posted. If you plan to take summer salary, please make sure it is taken within the correct effort period and that you meet all your effort commitments. **Questions?** Please contact your [Post-Award Specialist](#).

Professional Development

Nominations for EPA's Board of Scientific Counselors: Due June 30, 2017



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking nominations for technical experts to serve on its [Board of Scientific Counselors](#) (BOSC), a federal advisory committee to the [Office of Research and Development](#). BOSC provides independent scientific and technical peer review, consultation, advice, and recommendations for each of its research programs. Individuals and organizations can nominate themselves or others by using the [nomination form](#) on the BOSC website. **The nomination period is open until June 30, 2017.**

Details regarding areas of expertise sought, process for submitting nominations, and selection criteria can also be found in the [Federal Register](#). **Questions?** Contact Tom Tracy (tracy.tom@epa.gov), BOSC Designated Federal Officer.

Call for Research Proposals

UWM NSF I/UCRC on Water Equipment & Policy: Due August 15, 2017



The NSF Industry/University Cooperative Research Center (I/UCRC) on [Water Equipment & Policy](#) (WEP), jointly established by UWM and Marquette University, has issued a [Call for Proposals](#) for research projects that can impact the water industry. Topics include but are not limited to Materials, Sensors & Devices, Systems, and Water Policy. The maximum award size for new projects is \$50,000/year, but the maximum award size for continuing projects may be up to \$100,000/year. Applicants can download the RFP and proposal template from the [UWM Research Foundation website](#).

Applications are due by August 15, 2017.