

# **NEWS BRIEFS**

## **FROM THE**

### **OFFICE OF GRANTS AND CONTRACTS**

#### **Financial Conflict of Interest Training**

Several federal agencies have announced plans to require PIs and undergrads, graduate students, and post docs engaged in research to complete financial conflict of interest training prior to submission of a proposal. The National Science Foundation is the first agency to set an effective date for this training – October 1, 2009. The authorized official must certify that the training program plan is in place. If you intend to apply to any federal agency after September 30, 2009, please go to the training link at <http://www.ori.dhhs.gov/education/products/rcradmin/topics/coi/open.shtml>. When you complete the tutorial, take the quiz and print the certificate. A copy of the certificate must accompany your routing form and proposal.

#### **Impact of Mandatory Furlough on Sponsored Programs**

The Mandatory Furlough Program implemented by the Board of Regents on August 12, 2009, requires all University System of Georgia employees to take six days of leave without pay during fiscal year 2010. As described in the Mandatory Furlough Program Procedures:

“This program applies to all USG employees regardless of source of funds, or place of work, including staff, administrators, faculty and all other employees in classified and unclassified positions, including, but not limited to, time-limited, intermittent, temporary employees, and new hires.”

Employees supported by sponsored programs (grants, contracts and other externally-funded programs) are subject to the Mandatory Furlough Program unless there is a specific contractual obligation of the award that prevents a reduction in effort. The 6-day reduction in effort during Fiscal Year 2010, in most cases, is not significant enough to require sponsor approval. The OGC will identify any such awards that require pre-approval by the sponsor and proceed accordingly. More information can be found on the OGC website <http://www.kennesaw.edu/ogc>.

#### **Your Financial Reports**

If you have an externally funded project, you receive an email each month telling you that your financial report is ready and how you can access the report. Please check your reports to ensure that expenses are accurate and contact OGC postaward staff if you believe there is an error.

#### **Funding Alert System**

The Grants Resource Center, part of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, provides members with a Faculty Alert System. When you register on the OGC website, you will receive funding information tailored to your interest. To register, go to [http://www.kennesaw.edu/ogc/GRC/GRC\\_Alert.html](http://www.kennesaw.edu/ogc/GRC/GRC_Alert.html).

## **Internal Routing Form**

Please remember that your routing form should be completed and forwarded to OGC at the time of proposal submission. To ensure that you are using the correct version of the form, please go to the OGC website each time you complete it. <http://www.kennesaw.edu/ogc/Forms.html>

## **Workshops on Electronic Preparation of Proposals**

Most federally-funded programs, as well as numerous state and private programs, now require that proposals be prepared and submitted in electronic format. Since the number of proposals increases monthly, the OGC staff will begin presenting workshops in the fall to teach faculty and staff how to prepare their proposals for electronic submission by OGC. Please watch for future announcements and visit our website often. <http://www.kennesaw.edu/ogc>

## **FY 2009 Proposals Submitted and Awards Received**

The proposal and award statistics are finalized for FY 2009. Go to the OGC website at [http://www.kennesaw.edu/ogc/Proposals\\_and\\_Awards.html](http://www.kennesaw.edu/ogc/Proposals_and_Awards.html) to view this information.

## **Understanding Your Peer Review Summary Statement**

(From the July 2009 NIH Extramural Nexus)

Implementation of many of the Enhancements to Peer Review began with the May 2009 review meetings, and applicants are receiving summary statements with new features, such as scores determined under the new system. To understand your summary statement, read on...

### **Scores**

The final overall impact/priority score appears on the first page of the summary statement, and is in a new 2-digit format. (See our June issue for tips on [interpreting your score](#).) The final score for each application represents the overall impact of the application. It is calculated as the average (to one decimal point) of the overall impact/ priority scores (1-9 in whole numbers only) given by all eligible review panel members, multiplied by ten (so the new scores range from 10-90 in whole numbers).

In addition, the scoring of individual criteria was instated to help improve the quality and transparency of review, as well as help identify strengths and weaknesses for individual components. The summary statement shows the criterion scores given by assigned reviewers, in the critique section. Please remember that no direct correlation exists between criterion score(s) and the overall impact/priority score from each reviewer. That is, no formula is used to derive the overall impact/priority score from the individual criterion scores, and reviewers are instructed to weigh the different criteria as they see fit in deriving their overall scores.

### **Résumé and Summary of Discussion**

As in the past, the Résumé and Summary of Discussion section is prepared by the NIH Scientific Review Officer (SRO) and summarizes the discussion of the application during the review meeting. Applications do not receive a Résumé and Summary of Discussion if they were not discussed.

### **Critiques**

The critique format is new with this review cycle. To help improve the quality and transparency of review, NIH has developed [formatted critique templates](#) for reviewers to use to record their comments in the form of bullets, making succinct, focused points. Reviewers have been asked to focus on major strengths and weaknesses, i.e., ones that contributed directly to the overall rating of the application. In the critique section of the summary statement, you will see the individual

criterion scores and comments from each reviewer. Comments should help the applicant identify strengths and weaknesses of the overall application, as well as for each criterion.

### **Further Questions**

For more information about the guidance given to reviewers, download the [Reviewer Orientation](#) or visit the Enhancing Peer Review [site](#).

If you have questions related to the review of your particular application, contact information for the SRO is provided at the end of your summary statement.

If you have questions related to your application and how it fits into the funding priorities of the Institute or Center, information for the Program Contact is provided at the top of the first page of the summary statement.