Information about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Submitted by Ruth Landry

By now, you know that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. At this point, you are probably wondering what exactly this means for you.

What are we doing? Federal funding agencies are rapidly issuing plans for spending their portions of funding included in the Recovery Act. ORSP has been monitoring and will continue to monitor available resources (grants.gov, SMARTS, Community of Science, etc.) to locate Recovery Act opportunities and include them in the weekly FundingNotice. In addition, we will begin sending regular “Recovery Act Updates” via email that include opportunities as they are posted and related information as made available by sponsors. ORSP has also added a page on our website (http://orsp.louisiana.edu/funding/arra.shtml) dedicated to the Recovery Act. Please visit to find out more about each agency’s plans for distributing their portion of the funds, open ARRA programs, and special provisions and compliance requirements that will be part of any award made using ARRA dollars.

ORSP is working with the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies to create teams focused on the central themes found in the ARRA legislation (ex. Energy, Science and Technology, Healthcare, Education). Once our plans are solidified, members of the campus research community will be invited to join and participate in one or more teams to facilitate discussion and information sharing to foster collaborations that will result in proposals responsive to Recovery Act opportunities.

What should you be doing? In some instances, applications for funding will be accepted once instructions are posted for specific competitions. Agencies are also using ARRA allocations to fund existing programs. ORSP encourages its researchers to stay informed and prepared to take advantage of opportunities as they arise. To do so, we recommend you consider the following:

Prepare for new solicitations: We encourage you to review the weekly FundingNotice to find opportunities (both ARRA specific and others) that might match your research interests. Also, you should utilize available resources (grants.gov, SMARTS, Community of Science, etc.) to supplement your search. Utilize the new ARRA page of our website as a resource. Our pre-award staff is available to assist you with this process.

Revisit past submissions: Identify proposals recently submitted that were highly ranked but not selected for funding. Think about how to revise the proposal’s scope to tie the project tightly to economic recovery goals. Because most programs will have a short timeframe from announcement to closing date, we encourage you to review and ready proposals previously submitted to federal agencies receiving ARRA funds for resubmission.

Make contact with program managers: ORSP encourages faculty – those who have submitted previously as well as those who have been waiting for the right time to submit – to contact program managers to initiate positive, informed conversations about opportunities.
Is Your Budget in Shape for Summer?  
*Submitted by Valerey Boles*

Are you a Principal Investigator that has **summer salary** budgeted for you and/or other investigators for Summer 2009? If so, consult your financial records to ensure that you have sufficient funds in your salary line item to cover the budgeted summer salaries. Keep in mind that budgeted funds may not cover salary increases that were realized this past Fall semester. To request summer salary, complete the “Compensation Request from Restricted Accounts” form found on ORSP’s website [http://orsp.louisiana.edu/ppft/forms/doc/restrictacctcomp.doc](http://orsp.louisiana.edu/ppft/forms/doc/restrictacctcomp.doc).

If you are teaching during the summer session, remember that compensation can only be requested for the months during which you have no teaching assignment. Please use the following dates (adjusted to fit the amount of compensation allowed in your budget) when requesting summer compensation:

- **May 18 – May 31**: ½ month salary
- **June 1 – June 30**: 1 month salary
- **July 1 – July 31**: 1 month salary
- **August 1 – August 18**: ½ month salary

**Need a budget revision to cover your summer salary?**
Contact Donna Fontenot (2-1099 or dsf@louisiana.edu) or Valerey Boles (2-1780 or vlb@louisiana.edu)

**Have questions about summer salary?**
Contact Loretta Tauzin (2-6777 or lbt1393@louisiana.edu)

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**EYE ON IT:** Research Review Committees  
*Submitted by Robin Broussard*

Everyone’s excited to get started on their research. With summer around the corner, now is a good time to check your approval status. Yes, many areas of research (externally sponsored or not) need to have approval by a research review committee before proceeding.

- Projects involving recombinant DNA or biological agents need approval from the [Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)](http://orsp.louisiana.edu/compliance/IBC_2008.shtml).
- Projects involving humans, even just asking questions, should begin with a consultation or application to the [Institutional Review Board (IRB)](http://orsp.louisiana.edu/compliance/IRB_2008.shtml).
- Projects involving radiation or the potential exposure to radiation should be reviewed by the [Radiation Safety Committee (RSC)](http://orsp.louisiana.edu/compliance/IBC_2008.shtml).
- Projects involving vertebrate animals need to be reviewed by the [Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)](http://orsp.louisiana.edu/compliance/IBC_2008.shtml).

All of these committees are in place to assure that your research abides by federal and state regulations, which are in place to insure human and animal welfare. You can get more information and application forms at the Research Compliance website [http://orsp.louisiana.edu/compliance](http://orsp.louisiana.edu/compliance) or by contacting Robin Broussard (2-1419 or robin.broussard@louisiana.edu).

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**Attention:** Human Subject Researchers  
*Submitted by Robin Broussard*

The Institutional Review Board has revised its application and guidelines. On the revised application, you are now able to fill in the fields in Word. The guidelines have been redesigned to be more user-friendly. Hyperlinks to regulations and definitions have been added throughout the document.


**Need assistance with these IRB documents?** Contact Robin Broussard (2-1419 or robin.broussard@louisiana.edu). She is also available in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays in 315 Martin Hall.

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Q&A: Community of Science (COS)  
*Submitted by Alise Hagan*

**Q: What is COS?**
A: Community of Science (COS) is the leading global resource for researchers to find funding opportunities, identify collaborators and other researchers, and to promote your research. You can access COS online at [COS.com](http://COS.com).

**Q: How can I register for a COS account?**
A: To register for a COS account, go to [http://registration.cos.com](http://registration.cos.com) and complete the form. You will receive an email notification of your registration.

**Q: Can I access COS.com from anywhere?**
A: If you have a COS login, you have full access to all COS.com capabilities from any computer, anywhere. If you don’t have a COS login, you can still access COS.com to search for funding opportunities from any computer on campus.

**Q: Is COS training available?**
A: COS-led webinars on COS Funding Opportunities occur each month. Check ORSP’s website for a complete list of upcoming training sessions.

**Q: How can I learn more about COS?**
A: Contact Alise Hagan (ach@louisiana.edu) for additional information on COS.
ORSP Welcomes New Staff Members and Says Goodbye to Good Friends

2008 and 2009 brought significant change to the staff of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. Five new staff members – Cathe Charlier, Robin Broussard, Alise Hagan, Valerye Boles, and Melissa Richard – joined ORSP to help the office meet the needs of UL Lafayette’s researchers. We also said “Farewell” to two friends. In November 2008, Dr. Carl Frantz retired as the ORSP Director and moved to Chicago to be closer to his grandchildren. All will be pleased to know that he survived the Chicago winter! Ruth Landry served as Interim Director upon his departure and has accepted the position of Director on a permanent basis effective May 1, 2009. In January 2009, Mary Anne Rochel retired to take care of an elderly family member. Mary Anne served as ORSP’s Administrative Assistant for approximately 10 years. After her departure, the office was happy to welcome Melissa Richard as Administrative Assistant. Donna Fontenot remained a familiar face in the office and helped the new staff acclimate to the university.

We are excited to introduce our newest staff members:

Cathe Charlier, Contractual Compliance & Reporting

Cathe Charlier joined ORSP in April 2008 and is responsible for tracking project deliverables, auditing project and process compliance to standards, monitoring subcontractor compliance and developing program policies and procedures. In addition she will serve as the post award administrator for the ULS Serves grants. Her previous experience as a software quality engineer and corporate instructor for Texas Instruments, Inc. provides a solid background for fulfilling her duties in our office. Cathe is proud to return to the alma mater from which she earned a Bachelor of Science in computer science.

Robin Broussard, IACUC Coordinator/ Regulatory Compliance

Dr. Robin Broussard joined ORSP in May 2008 as a Research Associate. Her primary responsibility is as the Coordinator for the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) where she is coordinating the review process for animal protocols, monitoring compliance with the Animal Welfare Act and creating a database to manage the animal protocols. She is also assisting the Institutional Biosafety Committee, Institutional Review Board, and Radiation Safety Committee in their endeavors to assure that research at UL Lafayette is in compliance with federal and state regulations. Her prior experience as a researcher and lab manager at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center provided a solid background in database management, animal protocol preparation and compliance with federal and state regulations. She also has experience designing online course material and is investigating this avenue as a method of dispensing information and training to researchers from the compliance committees. Robin is excited about serving her alma mater, where she

Broussard (continued) earned her Honors Baccalaureate of Science and a Ph.D. in Environmental and Evolutionary Science.

Alise Hagan, Pre-Award Research Specialist

Alise Chabaud Hagan joined ORSP in September 2008 as a Pre-Award Research Specialist. She is primarily responsible for assisting researchers with identifying funding opportunities, preparing proposals and budgets, and submitting proposals. Alise thoroughly enjoys having the opportunity to review the diverse proposals submitted by UL Lafayette researchers, and is looking forward to developing training sessions on how to put together winning proposals. Prior to arriving at UL Lafayette, Alise was the Assistant Manager for Research, Analysis, and Marketing at the National Center for Biomedical Research and Training at LSU. Her degrees include Master of Technical and Professional Communication from Auburn University, and Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from LSU.

Valerye Boles, Post-Award Research Specialist

Valerye Boles joined ORSP in September 2008 as a Post-Award Research Specialist. She is primarily responsible for reviewing contractual agreements, processing budget revisions and no-cost extensions, and facilitating sub-contracts. Valerye is also excited to be involved in planning future PI support workshops. Her experiences of studying Biopsychology & Cognitive Sciences and Spanish at the University of Michigan, teaching High School Spanish in struggling schools, and advising new teachers with Teach for America provide a solid background in management and program development. She is excited to join the UL Lafayette research team and looks forward to working closely with PIs.

Melissa Richard, Administrative Assistant

Melissa Miller Richard joined ORSP in February 2009 after 18 years with Louisiana State University Health Science Center (LSUHSC). She serves as the first point of contact for ORSP; receiving telephone calls and visitors, and making referrals and appointments as necessary. Melissa coordinates administrative matters as well as maintains the schedule for the Director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. She is excited about her transfer and looks forward to meeting and greeting the UL Lafayette staff.
Crossword Puzzle

Submitted by Cathe Charlier

ACROSS

2. National Council of University Research Administrators
5. President who quoted “We will restore science to its rightful place...And we will transform our schools and colleges and universities to meet the demands of a new age.”
7. Diligent and systematic inquiry or investigation into a subject in order to discover or revise facts, theories, applications, etc.
8. Agencies, universities, or corporations who fund projects
10. There are at least 10 reasons to visit ORSP’s _______.
12. Director of Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP)
13. To work together on a grant
15. A sponsor may grant a ______ extension which would allow work to continue past the original end date.
18. Current efforts by the government to stimulate the economy are defined in the _______ _____.
20. The ________ covers benefits like medical insurance and is currently 30.31%.
21. Costs should be allowable, ________, and allocable.
22. Export Administration Regulations

DOWN

1. Research using _____ subjects requires submission to the Institutional Review Board (IRB).
3. Before a contract can be ________, it must first be fully executed by the sponsor and recipient.
4. The release of technology or source code to a foreign national in the United States; subject to the EAR
6. OMB circular A-21 addresses Cost ________ for Educational Institutions
9. A ______ ______ is due once all work on a sponsored project is complete.
11. ______-% of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) is the current indirect rate
16. Salary, travel, equipment, and tuition are ________ costs.
17. Also known as F&A costs or Overhead costs, ________ costs are actual costs incurred by the university to pay for items like facilities, lights, and office supplies.
18. Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies
19. Each semester, a PI must track and report _____ dedicated to each sponsored research project.

The answers to the crossword puzzle are available on ORSP’s website!
External Funding: By the Numbers
Submitted by Alise Hagan

UL Lafayette’s faculty has much to celebrate in their labs and classrooms. Fiscal year 2007-2008 brought additional cause for celebration: for the first time in UL Lafayette’s history, the external funding brought into the university exceeded $50 million. The table demonstrates that, in the past 15 years, the university’s external funding grew from $15.6 million to $50.3 million. With the ingenuity and creativity of our faculty, we will continue to see increased growth.

Do You Know Who to Call?

POST-AWARD
Have you been awarded a grant or contract? Do you have a budget revision? Do you need to file a no-cost extension? If so, contact your Post-Award Administrator.

Donna Fontenot:
Colleges: Education, Engineering, General Studies, Liberal Arts, Nursing & Allied Health
Centers: Picard Child Development Center, SBDC

Valerey Boles:
Colleges: Arts, Business Administration, Sciences
Centers/Programs: CBIT, MePOL, NIMSAT, NIRC, PTAC, RAC, Board of Regents

COMPLIANCE
Is your sponsored research project complete? Do you need to complete a final report and document effort? If so, contact ORSP’s compliance officer.

Cathe Charlier:
Reports (Annual, Final, Financial); Effort (PAER) Reports; Subcontractor – A133 Audits; Statistics/Historical Data; Residual Cost Transfers; Project Closeout

Not sure who to call? A complete list of staff and responsibilities is available on the Staff page of ORSP’s website.

Final Focus: Notices & Reminders

Routing and Approval of Proposals
Our doors are always open to discuss preliminary ideas for proposals, to review budgets, to edit proposals, and of course to submit proposals. The sooner we are in the loop, the stronger your proposal will be. Remember that all proposals and applications for funding must be reviewed and approved by the University administration prior to submission. Proposals should be submitted to ORSP at least three (3) business days prior to the funding agency deadline. Contact Alise Hagan with any questions about the development, routing and approval of proposals.

Upcoming Training: How to Find Funding Opportunities Using COS
“End User Training - COS Funding Opportunities” will be held Tuesday, April 28, 2009, at 8:30 am. Please RSVP to Melissa Richard (2-5811) if you plan to attend.

Thoughts about the Newsletter
If you have any comments, suggestions, or ideas for future issues of ResearchFocus, please share them with the ORSP staff (orsp@louisiana.edu). We look forward to your feedback!

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