RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION NEWSLETTER

http://www.brown.edu/research/research-administration-newsletters

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The monthly newsletter provides timely information on agency updates; sponsor and University policy and procedural information; and guidance in all aspects of sponsored project administration for Researchers and Research Administrators. Content for the newsletter is contributed from the offices under the Vice President for Research:

- Office of Research Administration Information Systems (RAIS)
- Office of Research Development
- Office of Research Integrity (ORI)
- Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP)

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Research Administration Updates

Office of Sponsored Projects

➢ NIH Notice on Salary Limitation for Grants and Cooperative Agreements

NOT-OD-17-049
Effective January 8, 2017, the Executive Level II salary increased from $185,100 to **$187,000**.

For awards issued in those years that were restricted to Executive Level II (see Salary Cap Summary, FY 1990 – FY 2016), including competing awards already issued in FY2017, if adequate funds are available in active awards, and if the salary cap increase is consistent with the institutional base salary, grantees may rebudget to accommodate the current Executive Level II salary level. However, no additional funds will be provided to these grant awards.

The Office of Sponsored Projects has revised the NIH Salary Cap Worksheet to incorporate the new salary cap. Please note that both the proposal stage and award stage of the worksheet have been updated with the new salary cap.

➢ NIH Operates Under a Continuing Resolution (CR)

NOT-OD-17-049, NOT-OD-17-001, NOT-OD-16-046
The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), including NIH, operates under the "Further Continuing and Security Assistance Appropriations Act, 2017," (Public Law 114-254) signed by President Obama on December 10, 2016. This Act (CR) continues government operations through April 28, 2017 at 99.8099 percent of the FY 2016 enacted level. Some highlights of this Act include:

- The NIH will issue non-competing research grant awards at a level below that indicated on the most recent Notice of Award (generally up to 90% of the previously committed level).

- Upward adjustments to awarded levels will be considered after FY 2017 appropriations are enacted, but NIH expects institutions to monitor their expenditures carefully during this period. All legislative mandates that were in effect in FY 2016 (see NOT-OD-16-044 and NOT-OD-16-048) remain in effect under this CR.
- The Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award postdoctoral stipend levels and tuition/fees for FY 2017 are described in NOT-OD-17-003. Until further notice, the undergraduate and predoctoral stipends and tuition/fees will remain at the levels announced in NOT-OD-16-062.

➢ OSP & RAIS Spring Training Sessions

The Office of Sponsored Projects offers training sessions on a range of Pre and Post- Award topics twice per year. In addition, RAIS offers Coues and Reporting training sessions. We encourage you to come learn with us in our Spring 2017 session! Classes are offered on numerous topics, such as Budgeting Basics, Cost Sharing, Coeus and Effort Reporting. We also offer training on specific proposal types (National Institute of Health (NIH) Career Awards, Fellowship, and Training awards). Both new employees and longtime staff can benefit from these training sessions, so we encourage you to attend whatever sessions are most applicable to your position. In LearningPoint, these classes can all be found by navigating to the Sponsored Research Related Training section. If you don't see a topic of interest, let us know and we'll provide custom training to meet your needs. Suggestions are welcome, please send to resadmin@brown.edu

Office of Research Integrity

➢ Export Control Compliance Manual

The Office of Research Integrity is pleased to announce its release of a comprehensive Export Control Compliance Manual. The purpose of the manual is to provide guidance on U.S. Export Control laws and regulations, to identify key export compliance issues related to research, education, and all other activities conducted within a university setting, and to describe how Brown implements its Export Control and U.S. Economic Sanctions Policy. The procedures outlined in the manual serve as Brown's program of internal controls, safeguards and educational measures designed to minimize risk of potential violations of all applicable export control laws and regulations and institutional policy. It's important to note that Brown's institutional policy and procedures outlined in the manual apply to all University personnel, defined as "Brown University faculty, staff, visiting scientists, postdoctoral fellows, students, and anybody who is paid by or otherwise engaged by Brown to conduct research, teach, or provide services at or on behalf of the University." Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the manual, and take advantage of the various educational and training offerings and one-on-one support offered by ORI's export control compliance team.

Research Development

➢ Research Development and Grant Writing Newsletter

The March issue is now available online; this newsletter offers strategies on how to compete successfully for research funding and highlights new funding opportunities.

➢ OVPR Internal Funding Opportunities

Grant Resubmission Awards
- Deadline: Rolling
- Provide up to $15,000 for investigators to improve an already highly-rated proposal for re-submission.
- Apply via UFunds.

➢ Brown-Naval Underwater Warfare Center Research Exchange: (NUWC)

Over the past few years the Research Development team has been organizing biannual research exchanges with the Naval Underwater Warfare Center (NUWC) in Newport. The general agenda and goal of these events is to hear and give short informal presentations, discuss potential collaborations, and learn about how best to engage with NUWC. This spring's exchange will focus on Big Data and Virtual Reality. Please contact **Edel_Minogue@brown.edu** if you have any questions.

> ➤ **Decoding the NIH Centers for Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE): How to Write a Successful Proposal - Rescheduled**

This lunchtime Question & Answer (Q&A) with a panel of Centers for Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) PIs had to be cancelled on 3/14/17 due to inclement weather. This Q&A will be rescheduled. Please contact **Edel_Minogue@brown.edu** if you have any questions.

Research Administration Information Systems

> ➤ **Update on the Research Administration Information Systems (RAIS) & Reporting User Group**

The RAIS & Reporting User Group was established to provide a forum for the research administration community to discuss topics pertaining to Brown's eRA systems - Coeus and InfoEd; Sponsored Agency Systems; InfoEd Project Updates; and Sponsored Projects Reporting.

The first RAIS & Reporting Group meeting was held March 2, 2017; thank you all for attending. For those that were unable to make it or if you would like to review what was discussed, we posted the User Group slides on the RAIS website - https://www.brown.edu/research/sites/research/files/RAIS_User_Group_3_02_17.pdf

The Next RAIS & Reporting User Group will be held:
- **Date:**   **Thursday / May 11, 2017**
- **Time:**   **2:00pm to 3:30pm**
- **Location: Petteruti Lounge**

Please contact RAIS@brown.edu if you have any suggestions for topics.

> ➤ **Coeus Access Form Revised**

The Coeus Access form located at ITHelp@brown.edu has been revised to more effectively identify which roles you need in Coeus. The following changes have been made:
- Updated Proposal Development Role Selection to align with Coeus User Role Definition document
- Added a new field to clearly define the department(s) you need access to
- Added a new section Roles to Assign for Workday Grant Management

In addition, a new business process has been created where you can re-open an already submitted Coeus Access form to request additional roles by replying to the It Ticket email of the original request.

> ➤ **RAIS Website Navigation Updates**

In order to more easily locate RAIS maintained request forms, Coeus Documentation and RAIS & Reporting User Group documentation we updated the Research Administration Information Systems website navigation to contain clear links to these various sections. RAIS website is located on the Research at Brown site (https://www.brown.edu/research/)

Sponsor /Agency Updates

NIH UPDATE

> ## eRA Enhancements: Electronic Prior Approval Requests & xTRACT Enhancements Releases March 2

This release now allows requests for No Cost Extensions requiring a prior approval and requests to change Program Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) to be made through the Prior Approval section of eRA Commons.

These features currently only apply to NIH awards and are an optional method. You should contact your awarding Institute/Center to determine the best method for making these requests before initiating either a No Cost Extension requiring prior approval or Change of PD/PI.

Additionally, this release added several new enhancements to xTRACT, the Extramural Trainee Reporting and Career Tracking system that is accessed via eRA Commons. It allows applicants, grantees and assistants to create research training tables for progress reports and institutional training grant applications. The enhancements include:

Participating Faculty Upload:
- The length of each faculty member's research interest is now validated, and an error message is displayed if it exceeds the maximum of 60 characters.

Copy Research Training Dataset (RTD) Features:
- Some users had occasionally encountered an unexpected error upon attempting to copy a prior RTD. This issue has been corrected.

Correct Mean Values Displayed Properly:
- When preparing the data for Pre-doctoral Applicants/Entrants, the mean values for Total Applicant Pool and Applicants Eligible for Support were sometimes displayed on the Summary tab in reverse order. This has been corrected.

Details related to these new features can be accessed via **eRA Commons Online Help**.

> ## Mid-career Investigators and Shifting Demographics of NIH Grant Recipients

The Office of Extramural Research's (OER's) Statistical Analysis and Reporting Branch and the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute analyzed concerns of mid-career investigators by looking at the association of NIH-funding with age. Using age as a proxy for career stage, the authors analyzed funding outcomes for three groups: principal investigators (PIs) aged 24 – 40, 41-55 (the mid-career group), and 56 and above.

Highlights of the findings include:
- The proportion of NIH investigators falling into the 41-55 age group declined from 60% (1998) to 50% (2014).
- Regardless of age, applicants have an approximately equal chance of having a new or renewal application funded.
- Multiple grants may confer an "enhanced survival benefit", as PIs with multiple grants have a salary-support buffer that enables them to remain in the academic research system.
- The funding spread is further enhanced by the distribution of certain types of research programs, such as P01 awards, which support multi-project research projects.

All of the NIH-wide finding were recently published in the Public Library of Science (PLOS) ONE article, "Shifting Demographics among Research Project Grant Awardees at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)"

NSF UPDATE	➢ **New NSF Proposal & Award Policy Newsletter**
	The Policy Office in the Division of Institution & Award Support at the National Science Foundation has released a new quarterly publication designed to provide information about upcoming changes and clarifications to policies and procedures that affect how NSF awards are prepared and submitted. The first issue of the NSF Proposal & Award Policy Newsletter is now available on the Policy Office website.
	➢ **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Concerning Public Access to Research Results**
	On March 7, 2017, NSF published answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) concerning public access to research results (NSF 17-060). Additional details can be found in the special report: Public Access to Results of NSF-funded Research.
	➢ **Removal of Deadlines for Programs in the Division of Earth Sciences (EAR)**
	The Division of Earth Sciences (EAR) will eliminate all future target dates for the following programs: Tectonics, Petrology, Geochemistry, Geophysics, and EarthScope. Submission of new proposals should be submitted 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 Alexandria.
	Additional details can be found in the following links: HTML: https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2017/nsf17067/nsf17067.jsp?WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click PDF: https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2017/nsf17067/nsf17067.pdf?WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click
Other Federal Updates	➢ **New Research Terms and Conditions (RTC) Published**
	The revised Research Terms and Conditions (RTC) was announced in the March 14, 2017 Federal Register. The RTCs address and implement the *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (2 CFR 200) issued by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Revision of the RTCs and accompanying documents is an initiative of the Research Business Models (RBM) Interagency Working Group.
	NSF has agreed to continue to serve as the sponsor of the updated version of these RTCs, which are accessible on the NSF website at: https://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/rtc.jsp. In addition to the Federal Register notice, the following documents are now posted on the NSF website, and are dated March 14, 2017, for consistency with the date specified in the Federal Register notice: · Research Terms and Conditions; · Appendix A Prior Approval Matrix; · Appendix B Sub award Matrix; and · Appendix C National Policy Requirements.
	The RTCs will apply to an award when they are included as part of that award, or when incorporated into that award by reference. Agencies may also supplement the RTCs with Agency Specific Requirements (ASRs).
	Please see the Federal Register notice at **https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-03-14/html/2017-04955.htm** for more information.

Coeus Update

➢ New NSF Grants.gov Form – NSF Coversheet 1.7 Coming Soon

We in the process of testing the New NSF Coversheet 1.7 and it will be available in Production in early April.

The major changes to the new version of the Coversheet are as follows:

1. **Change in terminology of *Funding Mechanism* to *Type of Proposal*.**

2. **Three new proposal types to choose:**

   - **GOALI -** Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry
   - **RAISE -** Research Advanced by Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering
   - **FASED -** The Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities

3. **Two new Attachment Types:**

   - **GOALI –** Industrial PI Confirmation Letter
   - **RAISE -** Program Officer Concurrence Emails

   These attachment types are only required on the specified Proposal Type submission.

Updates in Coeus for the new form requirements are as follows:

1. **New Questionnaire – NSF Cover Page 1.7**

2. **New Narrative / Attachment Types –** *NSF_GOALI_Letter* **&** *NSF_RAISE_Emails*
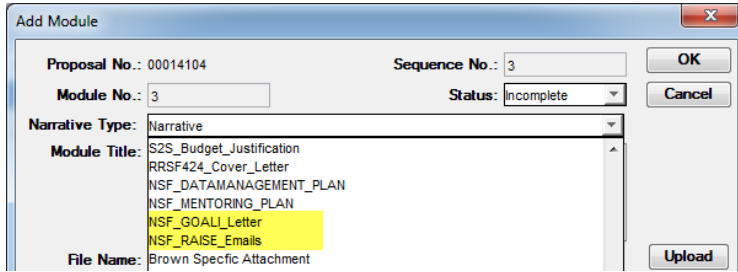

*New NSF Validations to replicate the compliance checks around these new requirements will be implemented in early April.

➢ Tip to Confirm You are Using the Correct Version of the Subaward Budget Forms

When submitting your proposal "System-to-System" from Coeus, you must use the correct version of the R&R Subaward Budget form for that opportunity package. If you do not use the correct version, the proposal will receive a Grants.gov error and will not be sent to the agency.

We have identified a method to check if you are using the correct version of the form so you can identify the issue prior to uploading into Coeus:

➢ Open the Document Properties of the Subaward Budget PDF by going to File > Properties.
➢ Review the **Title Field.** The field should contain "**Research & Related Budget**"

Correct Version of the Form	Incorrect Version of the Form
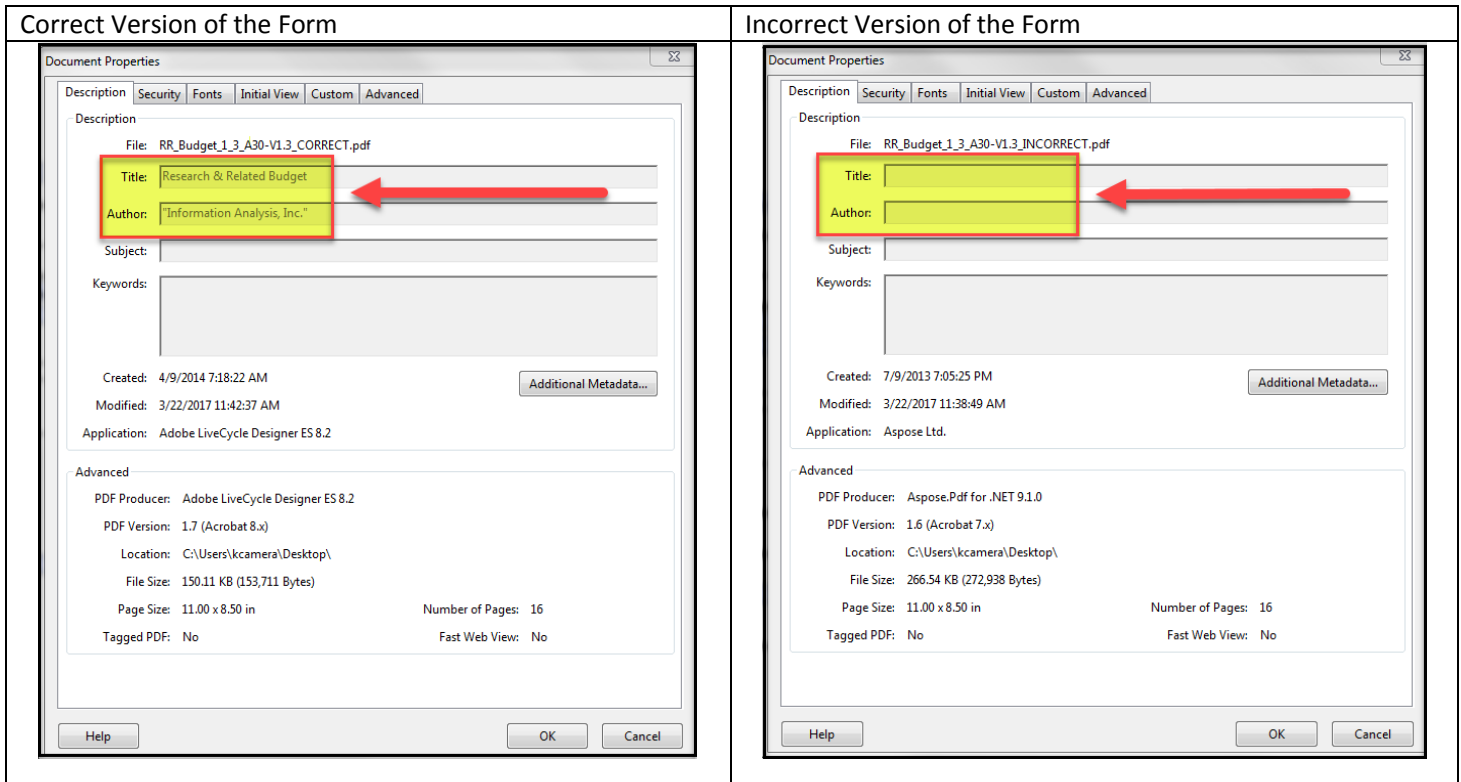
➢ **If you see "Research & Related Budget"** in the Title Field – that indicates that the correct version of the form is being used.
➢ **If you do not see "Research & Related Budget "**in the Title Field – You will need to Transfer your Subaward Budget Details on to the correct version of the form.

If you have questions, please contact Coeus_Help@brown.edu

Training & Conferences

OSP & RAIS Spring Training

The Office of Sponsored Projects and RAIS offers a variety of research administration training opportunities in order to provide staff with the knowledge base to support faculty and researchers in the management of their research. The Spring Training Schedule is below:

Spring Training Schedule		
Track	Class	Date
Pre Award	K Award Proposals	04/03/2017
Pre Award	Sub awards	04/05/2017
Coeus	Coeus Lite – Proposal Development	04/06/2017
Post Award	Commitments	04/06/2017
Post Award	Allocation of Costs	04/12/2017
Coeus	Coeus Premium – Advanced Budgeting	04/21/2017
Post Award	Direct Charging of Administrative Costs	05/04/2017
Coeus	Coeus Viewing Proposals & Awards	05/09/2017
Post Award	Traveling on Sponsored Projects	05/18/2017
Pre Award	Cost Sharing	05/31/2017
RAIS/Post Award	Effort Reporting	06/08/2017

UPCOMING CONFERENCES & PROGRAMS

NCURA National Meetings posted for 2017

➢ **Annual Meeting**
   August 6-9, 2017 | Washington, DC

For more details, see
http://www.ncura.edu/Education/MeetingsConferences.aspx

NSF Grants Conference 2017

➢ **Conference:** June 5 – 6, 2017| Louisville, KY

For more details, see
https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/outreach.jsp

NCURA Region I Spring Meeting 2017

➢ **Pre- Conference Workshop:** April 30, 2017
   Conference: May 1- May 3, 2017 | Newport, RI

For more details, see http://ncuraregioni.org/spring-meeting.html

NIH Regional Seminar (Spring & Fall 2017)

➢ **Spring: May 3-5, 2017**| New Orleans, LA
➢ **Fall: October 25 – 27** | Baltimore, MD

For more details see NOT-OD-17-026.