

Administrative Services Bulletin: (Thursday, September 10, 2009)
By Maggie Griscavage, Director, Office of Grants and Contracts Administration

What's new?

ARRA - America Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA, a.k.a. Stimulus funds) funding for UAF is currently at 38 awards for a value of \$ 162Million (which includes \$148M for the Alaska Region Research Vessel (ARRV). The OGCA ARRA Reports Coordinator (Sherry Lynch) continues to meet with PI's and departmental administrators to brief them on the extra reporting requirements that come with ARRA funds, and at the end of this month she will upload her first set of mandatory quarterly reports containing the multiple data fields stipulated in each award. OGCA staff technicians are absorbing the additional work, at present, and currently there's no plan for augmenting staff to accommodate the increase in sponsored projects number or value at UAF.

On-site Review by NSF - UAF's ARRV team, with UAF central offices' directors and Statewide representatives, met with a team of three National Science Foundation representatives who are conducting a Business System Review (BSR) related to the building of the ARRV. The UAF presentation will be made available to UAF via the OGCA web in the near future. The BSR is conducted over a period of time, about a year, and every facet of the UAF and Statewide business system (finance, HR, procurement, etc.) is reviewed in detail.

A-133 Audit – OGCA accountant and staff are working with KPMG LLC, independent auditors for the A-133 Single Audit that is conducted for the federal government every year. The audit is conducted annually on “Non-Federal entities that expend \$300,000 (*\$500,000 for fiscal years ending after December 31, 2003*) or more in a year in Federal awards.” The auditors will review UA financial statements, and our internal controls for consistency and compliance with federal program regulations and requirements. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/rewrite/circulars/a133/a133.html>

What's next?

Banner Data Entry – Proposal Module – OGCA continues to work with SW Systems Development to implement proposal module financial data entry for departmental technicians. It is hoped that this will speed up the process by which we make the funds available to the PI once the award is received and accepted by UAF. The premise is that if the financial data is already in Banner, in the proposal module, we won't have to wait for budget forms from the department – we can just pull the budget data into the post award module when we assign the new award a Banner “G” number.

New Overrun removal policy under construction – OGCA and Financial Services are working together to draft a UAF Policy that will support the SW Accounting Manual P-41 requirement to write off overruns in a timely manner. Currently, a significant amount of expenditure that could be billed to the sponsors is on hold due to the need to write off overruns on many grants. This also has an impact on cash flow, and the monthly generated Allowance for Doubtful Account report.

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