Message from Gary Pierzynski, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education

Hurray for F&A?

Over the past 6 months I have mentioned the work of the CFAES Research Advisory Committee (RAC) several times. Among other things, the group has been active in reviewing and developing various standard operating procedures (SOP’s). One SOP that generates considerable discussion among faculty and administration concerns Facilities and Administrative (F&A) costs. Soon, the RAC will release an SOP for F&A costs, so this is an opportune time to discuss this topic.

F&A costs (also known as indirect costs or overhead) are added to the actual cost of doing a project to compensate OSU for expenses that cannot be charged directly to the project. These expenses include utilities, lab space, maintaining the library, research administration, information technology services, etc. In other words, F&A helps pay for the infrastructure that allows us to conduct research.

The purpose of this message is to make you aware of the new SOP. I won’t discuss the reasons behind the various F&A rates at OSU, as they are beyond the point of this article. This SOP will require that the appropriate full F&A rate be charged to a sponsored project unless the sponsor has a written policy indicating a lower rate must be used or that F&A is not allowed. In other cases, the PI must be granted a waiver must be granted by the CFAES Office for Research and Graduate Education. This procedure won’t affect much in regards to federal granting agencies and many of our stakeholders. The primary difference will concern industry partners who have historically had widely varying F&A rates with little reason. This creates an interesting dynamic.

Our industry partners should be very familiar with the concept of overhead as part of the cost of doing business. For example, the cost of your new automobile doesn’t only include the cost of the materials and labor to assemble the vehicle, but also includes overhead such as the cost of energy to make the steel all the way to the cost of operating the auto dealership where you made the purchase. Yet, faculty and industry representatives alike argue strongly against paying F&A. Though many factors are involved, the root of the issue is that resources are limited. On one hand, our industry contacts have a fixed pool of funds to work with and they want to get as much done with that as possible. On the other, faculty want as much of those funds under their control as possible. Faculty are also concerned that our industry partners will just go elsewhere to get a better deal, rather than contributing to F&A. Additionally, the institution needs to recover some costs in order to keep running. The new SOP and waiver process will work to find the appropriate balance of these factors.

There is another interesting financial aspect to the F&A issue. At OSU, central administration charges each college a “tax” based on total research expenditures (rather than taking a fixed percentage of the F&A that the college collects). This “tax” is applied to all research expenditures, including those from projects we do not collect F&A costs. In these cases, projects are actually costing the college and the departments money. As a land-grant institution expected to serve our stakeholders, we anticipate having some projects with low or no F&A cost recovery. However, we must work toward minimizing this situation whenever we are able if we hope to maintain fiscal responsibility. Ultimately, we need to work toward increasing our F&A recovery for the financial health of the college. I look forward to working with you on this and other important issues.

CFAES Annual Research Conference – Register now!

Registration is open for the 2019 CFAES Annual Research Conference. The conference will be held on Monday, April 22 at the Nationwide Ohio Farm Bureau & 4-H Center in Columbus, OH. Transportation will be provided from Wooster to Columbus for those who are interested. The conference will be shortened this year, taking place from approximately 9:00-12:00pm. We will provide updates about the state of research at the college, including final recommendations for the National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) report, present faculty awards, and have a poster viewing for the annual poster competition. Light refreshments will be provided.
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

INTERNAL OPPORTUNITY—INSTITUTE FOR POPULATION RESEARCH (IPR)
The IPR offers seed grants to nurture research projects consistent with IPR’s mission to promote population science research. IPR favors multi-disciplinary collaboration and especially encourages applications from junior faculty, and from faculty new to population and health research. Seed grant projects can be 1) small and focused or 2) large multi-investigator projects.
Deadline: March 25, 2019

DOE—RESEARCH ON WATERSHEDS
The Department of Energy announced a plan to provide $3.6 million for university research aimed at achieving a more comprehensive understanding of the complex subsurface processes, including water flows and intricate biological and chemical interactions with water, soil, and minerals in watershed systems.
Deadline: March 29, 2019

GREAT LAKES COMMISSION—GREAT LAKES SEDIMENT AND NUTRIENT REDUCTION PROGRAM
Funding for the Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). For 2019, two grant options are being offered: watershed-scale projects and site-specific projects. Grants provided under this year’s program will focus on effective efforts to reduce phosphorus contributions to waters within the Great Lakes basin. The maximum request for each application will be capped at no more than $200,000. Applicants must be nonfederal units of government, tribes, or incorporated nonprofit organizations. A 25% match will be required of each project.
Deadline: March 29, 2019 at 6:00pm

INDUSTRY—NON-DESTRUCTIVE, IN-FIELD MEASUREMENT OF CORN STALK INTEGRITY
Every year stalk rot diseases and stalk boring insect infestations can result in serious damage to corn crops and significant yield losses. Corteva (the Agriculture Division of DowDuPont) is seeking non-confidential proposals describing a plan to develop and evaluate corn stalk pith damage phenotyping methods that meet certain expectations (which you can read on their website). The proposal should include a high-level timeline to a proof of concept within a 12-month period and a breakdown of the estimated project cost. Up to $50,000 is available for each award.
Deadline: April 1, 2019

FOUNDATION—CALL FOR LETTERS OF INQUIRY: NET-ZERO AND NEGATIVE EMISSIONS TECHNOLOGIES
This call invites Letters of Inquiry for innovative, collaborative academic research projects led by early- and mid-career scholars that examine net-zero interventions and negative emissions technologies in the United States. The intention of this call is to be broad in scope, encompassing natural, ecological, biological, technological, or engineered approaches for the utilization, storage, or sequestration of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases.
Deadline: April 1, 2019

FOUNDATION—CALL FOR LETTERS OF INQUIRY: SENSOR TECHNOLOGIES TO MONITOR ENERGY OR ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS
This call invites Letters of Inquiry for innovative, collaborative academic research projects led by early- and mid-career scholars that use sensor technologies to monitor and analyze energy or environmental systems at a granular level in the United States. The foundation is interested in motivating new research that deploys sensors in novel ways to measure dynamic features of environmental or energy systems and that analyze this data to better understand how these systems vary over time.
Deadline: April 1, 2019

USDA-NIFA—ALFALFA SEED AND ALFALFA FORAGE SYSTEM PROGRAM
The Alfalfa Seed and Alfalfa Forage System Program (ASAFS) will support the development of improved alfalfa forage and seed production systems. Proposals submitted should address one or more of the following priorities: (1) Improving alfalfa forage and seed yield through better nutrient, water and/or pest management; (2) Improving persistence of alfalfa stands by lessening biotic or abiotic stresses; (3) Improving alfalfa forage and seed harvesting and storage systems to optimize economic returns; (4) Improving estimates of alfalfa forage quality as an animal feed to increase forage usage in animal feeds; and/or (5) Breeding to address biotic and abiotic stresses that impact forage yield and persistence and the production of seed for propagation.
Deadline: April 5, 2019

USDA-NIFA—FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND BENCHMARKING (FBMB) COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM
The Farm Business Management and Benchmarking (FBMB) Competitive Grants Program provides funds for improving the farm management knowledge and skills of agricultural producers by maintaining and expanding a national, publicly available farm financial management database to support improved farm management.
Deadline April 9, 2019
FOUNDATION—GATES GRAND CHALLENGES: EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FOR NEW SOLUTIONS IN GLOBAL HEALTH
The Gates Foundation is seeking proposals that apply an emerging technology for new and potentially transformative solutions in global health priority areas. Priority areas include: Discovery & Translational Sciences; Enteric and Diarrheal Diseases; HIV; Malaria; Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health Discovery & Tools; Neglected Tropical Diseases, Pneumonia, Tuberculosis, and Vaccine Development and Surveillance. These priority areas encompass infectious disease outcomes, pregnancy and birth outcomes, child growth and development outcomes, disease surveillance, and research for the development of new vaccines, drugs (including non-hormonal contraceptives), and diagnostics.
Deadline: April 10, 2019 at 2:30pm

USDA-NIFA—CROP PROTECTION AND PEST MANAGEMENT (CPPM)
The purpose of the CPPM program is to address high priority issues related to pests and their management using IPM approaches at the state, regional and national levels. The CPPM program supports projects that will ensure food security and respond effectively to other major societal pest management challenges with comprehensive IPM approaches that are economically viable, ecologically prudent, and safe for human health. The outcomes of the CPPM program are effective, affordable, and environmentally sound IPM practices and strategies needed to maintain agricultural productivity and healthy communities.
Deadline: April 16, 2019

INTERNAL OPPORTUNITY—LINKAGE AND LEVERAGE SEED GRANTS
The Initiative for Food and AgriCultural Transformation (InFACT) invites you to submit proposals for the Linkage and Leverage seed grant program. This program seeks to Link (forge transdisciplinary connections among OSU faculty, staff, students and external partners) and Leverage (bring new talents, expertise, and resources to our initiatives as a result of our collaborative work) to address compelling food security challenges by building on our strengths in climate, environment, technology and agroecosystems; local to global engagements; new food economies; and campus food cultures and education. Teams of faculty, staff, students, and external partners may apply, with one member of the team identified as the project director. Questions may be directed to Dana Hilfinger, InFACT Program Coordinator (hilfinger.8@osu.edu).
Deadline, Cycle 2: April 19, 2019

FFAR—SEEDING SOLUTIONS 2019
The Seeding Solutions grants encourage the development of unique partnerships to support innovative – and potentially transformative – research focused in our Challenge Areas. For Seeding Solutions 2019, FFAR anticipates funding at least one proposal in each of our six newly updated Challenge Areas. This year, FFAR will prioritize funding projects that both demonstrate strong partnerships, and have the potential for significant agricultural advancements through innovation and new technologies.
Deadline: Pre-proposals due April 19, 2019

USDA-NIFA—RESIDENT INSTRUCTION GRANTS PROGRAM FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INSULAR AREAS
The purpose of this program is to promote and strengthen the ability of Insular Area Institutions to carry out teaching and education programs within a broadly defined arena of food and agricultural sciences-related disciplines. By strengthening institutional educational capacities in instruction and curriculum and enhancing the quality of teaching and learning, NIFA intends that this program will help Insular Area Institutions meet their unique needs.
Deadline: April 19, 2019

EPA—ADDRESSING CONCERNS IN VIEQUES, PUERTO RICO THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH
The US Environmental Protection Agency is seeking applications to develop a community participatory research program to address specific research areas that will foster a better understanding of environmental contamination, impact, and mitigation options at the Vieques, Puerto Rico site. These areas include developing approaches and methods to detect and characterize the baseline level of contamination in Vieques, assessing human health and ecosystem impacts caused by contaminant exposure in Vieques, and developing innovative approaches to mitigate contamination and enhance remediation at the Site.
Deadline: April 23, 2019

NIH—DEVELOPMENT OF ANIMAL MODELS AND RELATED BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS FOR RESEARCH (R21)
This funding opportunity announcement (FOA) encourages highly innovative research to develop, characterize or improve animal models and related biological materials for human health and disease or to improve diagnosis and control of diseases that might interfere with animal use for biomedical research purposes. The proposed project must fall within the categorical interests of two or more NIH institutions/centers. Applications to develop models that relate strictly to a specific disease or category of research will not be accepted and should be proposed to the appropriate categorical Institute or Center of the NIH.
Deadline: June 17, 2019
FFAR—Rapid Outcomes from Agricultural Research
The ROAR program provides nimble deployment of funds to support research and outreach in response to emerging or unanticipated threats to the nation’s food supply or agricultural systems. ROAR participants, including but not limited to university researchers, farmers or producers, commodity groups and government officials, may apply for funds in response to an outbreak for development of diagnostics, monitoring and mitigation strategies. The ROAR program fills the gap until traditional, longer-term funding sources can be secured.
Deadline: Ongoing

Fulbright Scholar Competition is Now Open
The Fulbright Scholar competition for academic year 2020-21 is now open. The program offers nearly 470 teaching, research or combination awards to U.S. faculty and experienced professionals in more than 125 countries. Opportunities are available for college and university faculty and administrators as well as for professionals, artists, journalists, scientists, lawyers, independent scholars and others. In addition to new program models to meet the changing needs of U.S. academics and professionals, Fulbright offers more opportunities for flexible, multi-country grants.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Successfully Analyzing a Grant RFP (Request for Proposal)
March 5, 10:00-11:00AM, Research Services 130 (Wooster)
March 7, 11:00-12:00PM, Agricultural Administration Building 250A (Columbus)
Each year, the Federal Government provides hundreds of billions of dollars in grant funding. These opportunities are usually announced by releasing a Requests for Proposal (RFP), or sometimes called Requests for Application (RFA). RFPs and RFAs are invitations for researchers to apply for “free” money. Knowing how to quickly and thoroughly analyze RFPs up front can not only get you grant funding, but also save you time and reduce your chances of being rejected.

RFPs provide both deadlines and specific instructions for you to follow. As a bonus, they also provide clues to help you put together a winning proposal IF you know what to look for. This session is designed to help you effectively and efficiently decipher the important information found in an RFP and get you well on your way to receiving some of that “free” money. We will primarily focus on the USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) RFP, which are typically released in early March. Please register if you plan to attend.
Presenters: Pam Schiegel and Melissa Burant from the Grant Development Support Unit

Writing a Compelling Project Narrative
March 18, 2:00-3:00PM, Research Services 130 (Wooster)
Updated time and location: March 20, 1:30-2:30PM, Parker Food Science and Technology 120 (Columbus)
Grant applications include various sections, one of the most important being the project narrative. This is your chance to describe your research idea to the funding agency, how it will be carried out, why your project is important, and the feasibility of such a project. In this session, we will discuss how to develop a strong project narrative and how to communicate your research clearly. Please register if you plan to attend.
Presenter: Kayla Arnold, Administrative Assistant to the Office for Research and Graduate Education

Privacy Matters: Preserving Privacy in Human Subjects Research
March 26, 8:00-9:30AM, James Cancer Hospital, Room L-035 (460 W 10th Avenue, Columbus)
Research participants’ privacy is affected by Common Rule revisions, new international regulations, and evolving institutional policies. This presentation features Holly Drake, Ohio State’s first Chief Privacy Officer, and Sandra Meadows from ORRP. The session will examine the privacy landscape at Ohio State and beyond, highlight the Final Rule’s privacy emphasis, provide an update regarding Certificate of Confidentiality requirements, and discuss scenarios involving human subjects research privacy considerations. Live streaming available upon request. Please do not register if you plan to attend via live stream. Register via BuckeyeLearn.

Ohio’s Expert Finder System: The Ohio Innovation Exchange Drives Research Collaboration
March 27, 11:00-12:00PM, Center for Clinical & Translational Science, Prior Hall, Room 240 (Columbus)
The Ohio Innovation Exchange (OEx) features information collected from Ohio universities and features faculty experts, state-of-the-art university equipment, and research support services. The OEx web portal enables business, industry, and academic users to more easily find, connect, and collaborate. The Center for Clinical & Translational Science and the Office of Research present this this hands-on workshop in which you will learn how to update your profile on OEx (making yourself visible to potential collaborators) and how to search OEx to find research resources and collaborators from across the state—or just across campus. Bring your laptop to take part in the training. Target audience: faculty and administrators who support faculty. Please register if you plan to attend.

See a full listing of upcoming events on our webpage.
New Standard Operating Procedure – Requesting PI Status
The Office for Research and Graduate Education in cooperation with the CFAES Research Advisory Committee has recently approved a Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on How to Request PI Status within CFAES. This new SOP can be on our website under research compliance/ standard operating procedures. Link

New OSU Limited Submission Research Funding and Awards Database Available
The new Research Funding and Awards database, provided by the Office of Research, replaces the limited submission report/database used in the past and provides an online and secure review process for internal nominations. Users may use tags/keywords to search this database or subscribe to opportunities. These tags represent limited submission and prize opportunities most commonly applied to by the Ohio State research community. Visit the "My Stuff" menu and select [Manage My Tags] to choose your tag(s) and set an Email frequency. The database includes limited submission funding opportunities, coordinated opportunities, and scholarly awards/prizes.

RECIENT AWARDS

Steve Culman, SENR; Brad Bergefurud, OSUE; $98,561: Assessing soil fertility and soil health in mid-west hop production; University of Minnesota.

William Peterman, Gregory Lipps, SENR; $124,493: Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake: Ohio population survey and survey technique development; Ohio Department of Transportation.

Mazeika Sullivan, Suzanne Gray, SENR; $601,580: Ecological design rules for roadway lighting; Federal Highway Administration, Ohio Department of Transportation, $601,580.

SEEDS: The CFAES Research Enhancement Competitive Grants Program Awards
Chanhee Lee, William Weiss, Animal Sciences; $79,763: Reducing risk of ketosis and increasing feed efficiency in early lactation cows using a novel nutritional approach: low vitamin A supply; Team Award.

Peter Piermarini, Entomology; $11,000: Nanoparticle-based solutions to improve mosquito control, Partnership Award.

Christine Sprunger, SENR; $49,987: Rainfall extremes and rhizosphere dynamics: Implications for soil health and crop productivity; Early Career Award.


G. Matt Davies, Roger Williams, SENR; Benjamin Wenner, Animal Sciences; $49,997: PyroGoat – Prescribed fire and goat grazing as tools to control invasive species and restore productive oak forests; Early Career Award.

Matthias Klein, Ahmed Yousef, FST; $49,966: Metabolomics characterization of bacterial spore germination; Early Career Award.

The GDSU is a free service provided to all CFAES faculty and staff. Our specialists offer guidance to researchers in planning and conceptualizing externally funded research projects, finding funding opportunities, and submitting well-crafted and competitive applications. For more information, see our webpage: grants.cfaes.ohio-state.edu.