

College Research Officers' Meeting October 22, 2012

1. **Announcements:** Carol Whitacre, Vice President for Research. October is Research Month at Ohio State. See <http://research.osu.edu/> and click on Celebration of Research 2012. Also check out this years recipients of the 2012 Innovators of the Year on the same website.

2. **International Research (IR):** Kelechi Kalu (Associate Provost for Global Strategies and International Studies) gave a presentation seeking advice on how to enhance the visibility and scope of IR at Ohio State, how to increase resources specifically targeted to IR, how to identify experts in specific areas when IR opportunities arise, and how to centralize efforts aimed at promoting IR focus. Several suggestions pertaining to one or more of these topics were provided by meeting attendees: eg.: 1) add a Research in View item, where faculty can list international research efforts, 2) the PA005 could be amended so that when grant PIs are preparing proposals for submission, they could list countries in which research will be conducted.

Several other topics were discussed briefly: 1) the distinction between research motivated by topics of international scope vs. merely international collaborations 2) international scientific research vs. scholarship in arts and humanities (and, in some cases the intersection between the two!) and 3) creation of bridge positions in charge of monitoring and facilitating linkages between International Studies with other colleges.

3. **Government Affairs:** Christine Kontra (Associate Director Government Affairs) provided a rundown of two items related to federal government impact on research. First was the potential impact of federal budget sequestration, should US Congress fail to reduce federal deficit in compliance with Budget Control Act of 2011. Based on 8.4% across the board cuts, this would significantly impact OSU student financial aid (not Pell Grants, but other need-based financial aid programs would mean 211 students lose support), OSU research funding, where cuts in FY13 alone could be between \$27M (best case, straight 8.4%) -\$133M (if NIH decided to absorb multiyear impact in FY2013 alone), and OSU health care (\$3M in FY2013; \$4M thereafter).

Another item expected to affect OSU research is the anticipated changes to reporting on government sponsored grants and contracts-- Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2012. There are currently two versions of the bill before Congress: one in the House, the other in the Senate. The two versions significantly differ from one another. OSU favors the Senate bill because it is far less prescriptive than the House version, and therefore likely to have less impact on current reporting procedures by PIs and grants and contracts administrative personnel.

4. Discovery Themes Initiative: Ohio State University, is planning a net increase in 500 tenured and tenure-track faculty in next 10 years. These faculty would be hired to enhance teaching, research and engagement efforts at Ohio State University that relate to Discovery Themes of Health and Wellness, Energy and Environment and Food Production and Security. Fifty percent of new hires would go to faculty whose expertise falls within one of the theme areas; the other 50% of new hires would be faculty clusters whose members collectively focus on two or more themes. Each theme will be steered by three senior OSU administrators. Process for acquiring new lines for faculty within a unit will be RFP-based. Ten year commitment to effort expected to be at least \$250M in one-time funding, plus \$50M in incremental funding matched by \$50M from colleges/departments selected to host appointments of new faculty. One-time support comes from sale of OSU parking. Needs assessments are underway. RFPs from interested units expected around Feb 2013.

5. Brazil Partnership. OSU expects to deploy about \$700,000/yr to support \ research collaborations involving OSU faculty and their Brazilian counterparts. Areas expected to be funded are Arts and Humanities, Agriculture and Plant Science, Biological and Physical Science, Business, Education, Engineering, Law, Libraries Medical Science, and general Conference Support. Different levels of support from \$50,000 to \$100,000, plus support for bi-national conferences will be provided.

6. F&A (Facilities and Administrative Costs) agreement. Ohio State has just received a new agreement with DHHS on 4-years F&A rates for grants and contracts. New rates affective 07/2013. Please see next page for further details.

7. Writing and Editing Services. Jan Weisenberger (Vice President for Research) talked about new service at OSU through Health Sciences Library (I believe). Company is called Biosciences Writers. (<http://www.biosciencewriters.com/>). \$60/hr. Will help with manuscripts as well as grant proposals. Several colleges around OSU have used professional writing services. with varied satisfaction and expense. Cost can be quite high (e.g., \$20K), but that makes sense if submitting multi-million dollar proposal. Seems that these services work better for preparation of proposals/manuscripts in the sciences, than those in arts and humanities.

New F&A Rate Agreement Received

The university has just completed negotiations with DHHS on a 4 year F&A rate agreement. The agreement, dated September 21, 2012 establishes the rates shown below. These rates will apply through the end of FY16, and will continue to be used until a new rate agreement is established.

Activity	Period	On-Campus % MTDC	Off-Campus % MTDC
Research	7/1/2012 – 6/30/2013	52.5%	26%
	7/1/2013 – 6/30/2014	53.5%	26%
	7/1/2014 – 6/30/2016	54%	26%
Instruction	7/1/2012 – 6/30/2016	52%	26%
Other Sponsored Activities	7/1/2012 – 6/30/2016	38%	26%

MTDC (Modified Total Direct Costs) means all costs except equipment (stand-alone items with a useful life of a least 1 year and a unit cost of at least \$5,000); alterations and renovations; patient care costs; tuition; scholarships and fellowships; rental of off-site facilities; subaward costs in excess of \$25,000.

Please see the rate agreement for additional information about on-campus/off- campus designations and the components of the F&A rate.

Implementation Procedures

New proposals

Investigators should begin using the new rates in proposals immediately. For awards that begin mid fiscal year, F&A costs should be prorated in the proposal budget, e.g., in the first year of an award with a start date of Jan 1, 2013 F&A would be charged at 52.5% for the first 6 month and at 53.5% for the second 6 months, so an average rate of 53% can be used for budget estimates.

New or competing continuation proposals submitted but not yet funded

OSP will work with sponsors to obtain the new F&A rate whenever possible. However, if we cannot obtain additional funds, direct costs will be protected and will not be reduced to cover the increase in F&A rate.

Currently active projects

These projects will continue to be charged their current rate until the next competitive segment or other natural break point. However, as the rate changes, unrecovered F&A costs will begin to accrue. For example, for Other Sponsored Activity awards the F&A rate increased to 38% effective July 1, 2012. Current projects will continue to be charged 36% but the additional 2 % will calculate as unrecovered F&A and will be recorded as cost-share on the PI Portal. Similarly, starting July 1, 2013 when the research rate changes to 53.5% the additional 1% will calculate as unrecovered F&A.