Office of Sponsored Projects Faculty Survey

During the spring semester of 2010, the Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP) worked with Dr. John Drea, then Chair of Marketing and Finance (now Associate Dean of the College of Business and Technology), to conduct a survey of faculty attitudes and beliefs regarding OSP services and incentives for engaging in grant writing and proposal development.

Among the research questions were the following:

- What steps (if any) could be taken to encourage WIU faculty to write more grant proposals?
- What types of assistance are sought from the Office of Sponsored Projects?
- How important is it for faculty to involve students in research activities?
- What attitudes and beliefs do faculty have concerning the development and submission of grant proposals?

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Spring 2010 University Research Council Grant Recipients

Gloria Delany-Barmann, Educational and Interdisciplinary Studies
Carla Paciotto, Educational and Interdisciplinary Studies
Guadalupe Cabelo-Timmons, Foreign Languages and Literatures
“Development of an Assessment Tool for Prairie Restoration Utilizing Soil Organic Carbon Dynamics,” $4,687

Jo-Ann Morgan, African American Studies
“Contesting and Reversing Language Shift: Heritage Language Learners Sustaining Linguistic Diversity at a Rural Mid-western University,” $3,912

Carla Paciotto, Educational and Interdisciplinary Studies
“Utilizing Soil Organic Carbon Dynamics,” $4,687

Guadalupe Cabedo-Timmons, Foreign Languages and Literatures
“Picturing Black Power—Reproducing the Revolution,” $4,350

Jo-Ann Morgan, African American Studies
“Contesting and Reversing Language Shift: Heritage Language Learners Sustaining Linguistic Diversity at a Rural Mid-western University,” $3,912

Richard Filipink, History
“It Depends Who Writes the History, Henry: How the Nixon Administration Attempted to Shape Our Understanding of Vietnam and Watergate,” $5,000

Fuyuan Liang, Geography
“Geomorphological Mapping of Karst Landforms in South China from Digital Elevation Data and Remote Sensing Imagery,” $4,880

Kim McClure, Psychology
“The Effects of Stereotype Activation and Witness Behavior on Detective Perceptions of Credibility,” $4,910

University Research Council Members

Ken Hawkinson.................................................................Associate Provost/Associate Academic Vice President; Chairperson of the URC
Hoyet Hemphill.................................................................Instructional Design and Technology
W. “Buzz” Hoon.................................................................Broadcasting
William Howard ..............................................................Art
Ruth Kelly .................................................................................Psychology
Jim Kenny .................................................................................Management and Marketing
Chris Kovacs ........................................................................Kinesiology
Jennifer McNabb ...............................................................History
Leslie Melim ...........................................................................Geology
Sumesh Philip ......................................................................Computer Science and Information Systems
Some of the results of the survey were surprising to the OSP staff. Faculty overwhelmingly responded that they wanted help finding funding for potential projects. We are hopeful that faculty will call our office and make an appointment with Jill Marshall who provides this service. OSP subscribes to two private databases and has information about funding opportunities through other publicly available sources as well. We are happy to provide one-on-one assistance for faculty members who want to find viable funding sources for their projects.

Most faculty members felt that submitting a grant application that was ultimately funded would enhance their standing in the department/college, but not as many felt that submitting a grant application that was NOT funded would do so.

The majority of respondents felt that if they had release time and/or monetary incentives they would likely be more involved in the grant writing process. This was not surprising as it is a similar finding at most other institutions.

We were able to learn a lot about what faculty think about OSP services and their motivation to seek external funding. We thank Dr. Drea for his assistance, and we thank all of the faculty members who responded to our survey. Respondents really seemed to value OSP services in navigating institutional bureaucracy, so if we can be of help in that area, we are most happy to do so!

**URC Internal Grants Competition Announced**

The University Research Council (URC) has announced that the deadline for the Fall 2010 Internal Grants Competition is 12:00 PM on Tuesday, October 5, 2010. URC support is intended to promote research, or its scholarly equivalent, in appropriate fields by providing seed money for the initiation of new, one-year projects. Priority will be given to those proposals that are likely to result in external funding and publication in peer-refereed journals, or exhibitions and performances.

Eligible applicants include tenured or tenure-track faculty members who are not members of the URC at the time of application. An individual may not be an applicant or co-applicant on more than one proposal per funding cycle.

Proposed projects may not be for dissertation research or used in any way to fulfill degree requirements. In addition, projects cannot be considered for textbook writing, curriculum development, or personal development.

The URC holds a grant competition twice each academic year, with one deadline in October and one in April. In the last competition (April 2010), the URC funded nine new projects, with awards totaling over $40,000.

Application materials are available on the OSP website at wiu.edu/SponsoredProjects/council/council.html.

In FY 2009, OSP was able to contribute over $100,000 for internal faculty grants.

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**Remember to submit your complete electronic grant applications to OSP at least two working days prior to the funding agency’s deadline.**
Dr. Andy Baker, professor in the School of Agriculture, came to WIU as an assistant professor in 1999. In his first year here, he applied for an internal professional development grant offered through his Dean’s office in the College of Business and Technology. Through this grant, he was able to attend a conference on “Brain Research” that shaped the way he would look at and relate to his students in the future. The conference focused on learning preferences and styles as well as how the brain functions, which was a perfect fit for his position as a teacher educator. He was able to integrate the information directly into his classroom discussions.

Baker is in charge of the Agriculture Education program in the School of Agriculture. Since 1999, he has been responsible for over $400,000 in grant funds coming to WIU. The majority of grant funds are for the improvement of agriculture education, and thus, they directly benefit his students and their experiences here at Western. His grant funds have been used for student recruitment into WIU’s Ag Ed program, student internships, students’ participation in professional development conferences, student teacher visitations, and the development of student scholarships. Dr. Baker has also been able to establish a lecture series that brings in teaching professionals to address issues that his students have identified such as union issues, how to develop community support, and how to conduct a successful foundation drive.

One of the greatest things that he has been able to do for his students, says Baker, is to cover the costs for his students to attend conferences such as the American Association for Agricultural Education (his professional organization) and the National Association of Agricultural Educators (the association for secondary teachers of agriculture—who his students will someday become). Many of his students would not have the means to attend these meetings on their own, and they gain a lot of very meaningful experiences and networking opportunities through their attendance.
What’s Happening at Your Funding Agency?

An easy way to find out the latest news coming from funding agencies is to subscribe to their various listservs, RSS feeds, or social media services such as Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube. Below are links to the information services available at several agencies:

Grants.gov .......................... www.grants.gov/applicants/email_subscription.jsp
National Science Foundation .......... www.nsf.gov/funding/
National Institutes of Health ........... http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/listserv.htm
National Endowment for the Humanities ...... www.neh.gov/whoweare/rss.html
National Endowment for the Arts .......... www.nea.org/home/rssfeeds.htm
U.S. Department of Education .......... www2.ed.gov/about/overview/focus/social-media.html
Centers for Disease Control ............ www.cdc.gov/emailupdates/index.html
Council for International Exchange of Scholars .......... www.cies.org/cies.xml
Grants Resource Center ............... http://twitter.com/GRC_News
Illinois Humanities Council .......... http://twitter.com/ilhumanities

Remember to Check Out the Research.Grant.Opportunities Bulletin Board

Just go to “WIU Bulletin Boards” in Zimbra and click on Research.Grant.Opportunities to view the latest in funding opportunity announcements, internal grant programs, and news from the world of grants and contracts.
Compliance Corner

One of the most important elements of the research process is the informed consent process. It is important to remember that this process gives you the opportunity to explain to your participants what your research is about and what their rights as research subjects are. The following is a list of the key elements which should be included in your informed consent document:

• A statement that the study involves "research," an explanation of the purposes of the research and the expected duration of the subject's participation, and a description of the procedures to be followed

• A description of any reasonably foreseeable risks or discomforts to the subject

• A description of any benefits to the subject or to others which may reasonably be expected from the research

• A disclosure of appropriate alternative procedures or courses of treatment, if any, that might be advantageous to the subject

• A statement describing the extent, if any, to which confidentiality of records identifying the subject will be maintained

• For research involving more than minimal risk, an explanation as to whether any compensation is available if injury occurs, whether any medical treatments are available if injury occurs, and if so, what they consist of or where further information may be obtained

• An explanation of whom to contact for answers to pertinent questions about the research and research subjects' rights, and whom to contact in the event of a research-related injury to the subject

• A statement that participation is voluntary; refusal to participate will involve no penalty or loss of benefits to which the subject is otherwise entitled; and that the subject may discontinue participation at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which the subject is otherwise entitled

To see a sample consent form, visit the University compliance website at wiu.edu/sponsoredprojects/university_compliance/university_compliance.html.

If you have questions about human subjects research or the IRB process at WIU, please contact Angela J. Tee, Compliance Specialist, at AJ-Tee@wiu.edu or (309) 298-1191.

Illinois Researcher Information Service (IRIS)

The Office of Sponsored Projects subscribes to the services of IRIS (Illinois Researcher Information Service) to assist the University community in locating funding opportunities and finding collaborators.

Finding Funding

• Search the IRIS Database for funding opportunities in every field from agriculture to zoology, or view upcoming deadlines in 25 subject areas. IRIS monitors federal agencies, State of Illinois agencies, and private and corporate foundations.

• Use the IRIS Alert Service to receive personalized e-mail notifications of new grant opportunities as they are posted to the site. Set up your own personal profile, and let the IRIS Alert Service identify incoming funding announcements that match your profile.

Identifying Collaborators

The IRIS Expertise Service enables faculty members to create detailed electronic CVs (“biosketches”) and post them to the Web for review by colleagues at other colleges and universities, program officers at federal and private funding agencies, and technology-transfer departments at private companies.

For more information, visit the IRIS webpage at www.library.illinois.edu/iris or contact Jill Marshall at je-marshall1@wiu.edu or (309) 298-1191.
The Office of Sponsored Projects hosted a grant proposal planning program on May 20, 2010. The program was presented to 15 faculty members completing their first year at WIU.

Program topics included the following:
• Introduction to OSP
• Funding Searches
• How to Read a Grant Solicitation
• Parts of a Proposal
• Budget Development
• Compliance Issues
• Writing Tips
• Review Process
• Grants Administration
• Lessons Learned by Current Faculty Grant Recipients

Participants will receive $1,000 for expenses related to their research upon successful completion and submission of an approved competitive grant proposal to an external agency.

The following first-year faculty members participated in the program:
Meshack Afitlhile, Biological Sciences
Donna Aguiniga, Social Work
Esteban Araya, Physics
Marcus Buker, Geography
Marisol Garrido, Foreign Languages and Literatures
Sue Hum-Musser, Biological Sciences
Ranbir Kang, Geography
Casey LaFrance, Political Science
Debbie Lee, Curriculum and Instruction
Seungmug Lee, Law Enforcement and Justice Administration
Carol Longley, Dietetics, Fashion Merchandising, and Hospitality
MaCherie Placide, Political Science
Andrea Porras-Alfaro, Biological Sciences
Jack Rozdilsky, Health Sciences
Jeannie Woods, Theatre and Dance

Remember to check out the Grants Resource Center (GRC) for the latest news on grant announcements, upcoming grant deadlines, federal agency updates, and much more. Go to aascu.org/grc and enter the username “WIU” and the password “grants.”
Office of Sponsored Projects Events – Fall 2010

University Research Council Grant Program Deadline

October 5, 2010 12:00 PM OSP, Sherman Hall 320
This internal grants program is designed to promote research or its scholarly equivalent in appropriate fields by providing up to $5,000 in “seed” money for the initiation of new projects with the potential for external funding.

Basics of Grant/Contract Proposal Budgeting

October 14, 2010 3:00 – 4:00 PM Union Capitol Rooms, CODEC to QC
This workshop is designed to assist faculty in preparing budgets for their grant proposals. We will discuss issues involved in budgeting for faculty salaries (release time/supplemental pay), graduate assistants and undergraduate students, and fringe benefits. We will also cover State of Illinois travel regulations, equipment purchases, indirect costs, and other costs normally included in grant/contract budgets.

Resources that Will Assist You Before, During, and After the Grant Acquisition Process

October 15, 2010 10:00 – 11:00 AM
Everyone needs to know where to find the answers to their questions! This session will give you the answers that you need and where to find them. All the details that often eat up way too much of your time will be much easier to navigate through after this informative session.

Understanding the IRB Protocol Forms

October 20, 2010 10:30 – 11:30 AM Malpass Library, Room 180
November 11, 2010 1:30 – 2:30 PM CODEC to QC, Room B16
These identical workshops are designed to introduce faculty to the University compliance web page, with a focus on human subjects research and the IRB protocol forms. We will discuss how to select the appropriate protocol for research projects and provide tips to aid in completing each of the protocols.
The first National Science Foundation Regional Grants Conference of fiscal year 2011 will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, and will be co-hosted by Utah State University and the University of Utah, October 25-26, 2010.

Key representatives from the NSF as well as your colleagues—faculty, researchers, and grant administrators—representing colleges and universities from around the United States will participate.

This two-day conference is a must, especially for new faculty, researchers, and administrators who want to gain key insight into a wide range of current issues at NSF, including the state of current funding, new and current policies and procedures, and pertinent administrative issues. NSF program officers representing each NSF directorate will be on hand to provide up-to-date information about specific funding opportunities and to answer your questions.

Highlights include the following:
- New programs and initiatives
- Future directions and strategies for national science policy
- Proposal preparation
- NSF's merit review process
- Crossdisciplinary and special interest programs
- Conflict of interest policies
- Breakout sessions by discipline


For additional information regarding program content, contact the Policy Office, Division of Institution and Award Support, at (703) 292-8243 or via e-mail at policy@nsf.gov.

Now Is the Time to Become an NIH Reviewer

One of the driving forces behind the establishment of the Grants Resource Center’s (GRC) Health Research and Education (HRE) Task Force in late 2009 was the concern that NIH’s enhanced peer review initiative and recent application changes would adversely affect institutions that do not receive a great deal of NIH funding. David Stone, one of the task force’s co-chairs, says that without intervention, the large number of faculty serving on NIH review panels at research-intensive institutions could have an unfair advantage over institutions at which few—or no—faculty have served as NIH reviewers. Now, the agency has announced a need to broaden its pool of peer reviewers (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-10-089.html), and it is crucial that GRC members respond.

HRE Task Force members and GRC staff have met with senior NIH officials over the past 18 months to discuss the inadvertent disadvantages that exist among higher education applicants. The recent announcement regarding the agency’s expectation of service on peer review committees and advisory groups represents an important opportunity for more GRC member institutions to become engaged. NIH says the peer review initiative’s “continued excellence depends on our ability to recruit and retain the most accomplished, broad-thinking, and creative scientists and experts to serve as peer reviewers” and that “principal investigators who receive research grant support from the NIH are an enriched source of such highly-qualified individuals.”

GRC asked the agency to clarify its interest in having Academic Research Enhancement Award (R15) awardees serve as reviewers. Administrators replied that they “would be delighted for GRC to encourage R15 awardees to volunteer in response to NOT-OD-10-089.” Individuals who possess expertise in areas supported by NIH and who wish to participate in the NIH peer review process should submit a biosketch and a brief description of their areas of expertise to EnhancingPeerReview@mail.nih.gov.
The mission of the Office of Sponsored Projects at Western Illinois University is to provide comprehensive support services to the University community for the successful administration of externally sponsored projects.

OSP is committed to providing a full range of administrative services to the faculty, staff, and administrative units at Western.

The goal of the OSP staff is to deliver our support services in an efficient and professional manner, which is in full compliance with external sponsoring agency guidelines.

**Who to Contact**

*Beth Seaton, Director* – Contact Beth for matters related to the review and approval of proposals to ensure compliance with University and agency policies and procedures, authorized organizational representative approval (official University signature for proposals in addition to certification, assurances, and representation), and administration of University Research Council (URC) selection and awards.

*Jill Marshall, Pre-Award Services* – Contact Jill for assistance with funding searches, procurement of grant application materials, development of proposals and budgets, electronic submission of proposals, and requests for internal approval forms.

*Kathy Lantz, Post-Award Services* – Contact Kathy for services involving the administration of awards, including the receipt and negotiation of all award documents; account establishment; review and processing of all requests for modifications, extensions, and amendments of sponsored projects; processing of payroll forms; and administration of URC awards.

*Angela J. Tee, Compliance Specialist* – Contact Angela for federal compliance issues, including questions about human subjects in research and Institutional Review Board (IRB) policies and procedures.

*Danette Phelps, Staff Clerk* – Danette’s responsibilities include the copying, mailing, and tracking of all proposals; maintaining the database of proposals and awards; making arrangements for workshops and seminars; and performing all those other assignments that keep the office running efficiently.

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