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Quest
Research, Scholarship, Creative Activity
August 4, 2011
NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Proposal Development Team supports faculty grant writers

The Proposal Development Team assists UT faculty in responding to solicitations from funding agencies. PDT services include editing, document assembly and coordination, charts and graphics, budget consultations, and other tasks related to submitting successful proposals.

In FY 2011, PDT staffers facilitated 47 full proposals and provided content editing on an additional 31 documents. Additionally, PDT staff supplied charts or graphics for 95 projects

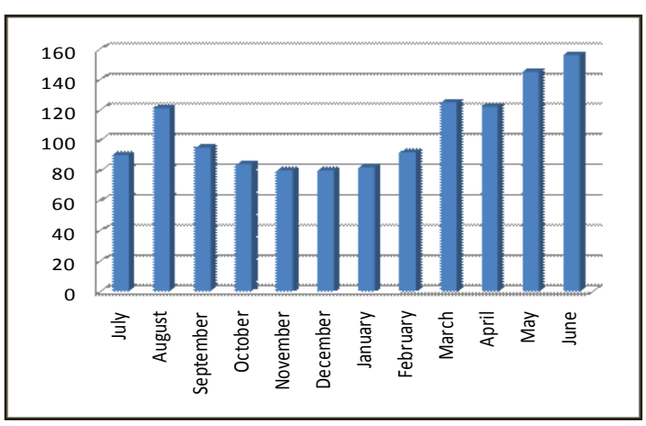
Faculty who make use of any proposal development services are asked to rate their satisfaction with their experience using the PDT by answering 13 questions. On all 13 issues, PDT performance ranked above four points on a five-point positive scale. Responses are invited on a five-point scale, with 1 being "strongly disagree" and 5 being "strongly agree."

The survey questions: (with average scores for FY 2011)

1. Weekly meetings provided an incentive to stay on schedule. (4.4)
2. The calendar identified key intermediate milestones. (4.4)
3. My input was acknowledged and incorporated into the calendar. (4.6)
4. PDT services and roles were clearly explained during our first meetings. (4.3)
5. Editorial support provided by the PDT made my proposal stronger. (4.5)
6. Graphics support provided by the PDT made my proposal stronger. (4.2)
7. The external review made my proposal stronger. (4.2)
8. Budget support provided by the PDT made my proposal stronger. (4.5)
9. PDT ensured solicitation requirements (narrative/supplemental materials) were complete. (4.6)
10. The PDT was responsive to emails and phone calls. (4.8)
11. The proposal I submitted w/PDT was more competitive than it would have been otherwise. (4.7)
12. Having worked with the PDT, I am better prepared to develop my next proposal. (4.6)
13. I would be inclined to work with the PDT again. (4.7)

Targeted funding announcements

In an effort to notify faculty researchers about funding opportunities, the Office of Research seeks out opportunities that may be of interest to particular scholars. The effort includes use of targeted listservs and individual email notifications. The chart below breaks out the number of notifications, which totalled 1,272, made on a monthly basis in FY 2011.

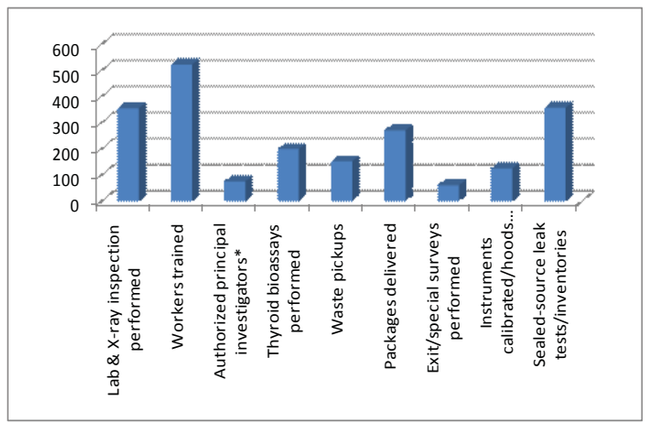


THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE KNOXVILLE

Radiation Safety

The Radiation Safety Department is responsible for ensuring that university research activities comply with federal and state safety standards for use and disposal of radiation sources and that all laboratory staff using rad sources are trained in safety procedures.

In fiscal 2011, the Radiation Safety Department performed 6,000 total activities, including issuance of 3,876 badges, an increase of almost 1,700 activities from FY 2008 (see chart below).



The department has also marked a qualitative change in the way radiation is used in research. UT researchers in FY 2004 typically worked with established protocols in radiation research, but in the last six years, university researchers have moved into areas of research requiring greater investments of time and resources from the department.

Details: https://my.tennessee.edu/portal/page?_pageid=278,1&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

Sponsored Programs summary

The Sponsored Programs unit of UT's Office of Research marked FY 2011 with transition to the Tennessee Electronic Research Administration software package and the implementation of its Proposal and Awards Management System. SP staff provided 32 classroom training sessions for UT research staff and trained role managers and approvers in classroom and one-on-one settings. The staff also collaborated on preparation of a users guide for the new program.

The unit provided training on new NSF guidelines, Grants.gov procedures, and submissions to the National Institutes of Health, and participated in the Office of Research boot camp and the Women's Leadership Program offered by the College of Business.

Sponsored Programs staff presented at a number of national and regional conferences of the Society of Research Administrators and the National Council of University Research Administrators, and several staffers had articles published in professional journals, including David Smelser, Linnea Minnema, Debbie Hampstead, and Miriam Campo.

In addition to working with faculty on the submission of proposals and contract negotiations, the Sponsored Programs unit handled over 2,300 documents in FY11, an increase over past fiscal years, when the count was 2,197 in FY10 and 1,836 in FY09. The breakdown for FY11 is:

Award actions	1,488
Confidential agreements	66
Invention disclosures	44
Joint faculty agreements	57
Memos of Understanding	11
Material transfer agreements	31
Rebudgets	274
No-cost time extensions	122
Other	212

The total number of proposals processed and the dollar value of awards is not final yet for FY11, but the numbers are expected to be substantial.

The unit has streamlined the joint-faculty process in ways that reduce processing time and is involved in working with the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences on a graduate certificate program in university research administration.

QUEST NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Research, Scholarship, Creative Activity

Opportunities

NSF visualization challenge: 'To illustrate is to enlighten'

The National Science Foundation and the journal Science are soliciting entries for the International Science & Engineering Visualization Challenge, a contest designed to recognize scientists, engineers, visualization specialists, and artists who produce innovative work to illustrate research findings. Awards will be made for photography, illustrations, informational posters and graphics, videos, and interactive video games.

The theme for the challenge is "Science and engineering's most powerful statements are not made from words alone." Comments on entries by the judges of the contest will be available for all, and the contest will feature a people's choice award that everyone can vote on.
Key dates: September 30, 2011 – online submission of entries. February 2012 – publication of winning entries in the journal Science.
Details: http://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/scivis/

UT hosts workshop on new generation of physics research

The 2011 International Workshop for Baryon and Lepton Number Violation will be held in Gatlinburg, TN, September 20-24.

The workshop addresses experimental, theoretical, and cosmological issues in the search for baryon and lepton number violation. More than 60 talks will treat issues related to proton decay, neutron oscillation, neutrinoless double beta decay, dark matter and such closely related issues as the origin of matter, baryo- and leptogenesis, and grand unification, as well as how these processes might be manifested at the Large Hadron Collider or other future facilities.

The workshop will bear on a new generation of research proposed for the Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory and other underground labs in Europe, Japan, and other locations – work that will help determine the direction of new physics beyond the Standard Model.

Sponsors of the event are the University of Tennessee, Indiana University, North Carolina State University, supported by the Department of Energy's Office of High Energy Physics and the National Science Foundation.
Contact: Chrisanne Romeo (cromeo@utk.edu, 865-974-3342)
Details: http://www.phys.utk.edu/blv2011/

Head of new Census Data Center to visit campus

The head of the Atlanta Census Research Data Center will visit the UT Knoxville campus for a brown-bag luncheon to discuss research opportunities at the Atlanta center.

Julie Hotchkiss, executive director of the new center, will make a presentation in the University Center Crest Room at noon on Friday, September 2, 2011.

Census data in the nation's 13 centers is nonpublic information made available for restricted-use statistical research. To access the data, researchers must have approval from the Census Bureau and must be conducting research that benefits Census Bureau programs. The centers are secure repositories, and researchers must travel to a center to use the data.

The National Science Foundation offers funding support for scholars seeking to exploit data from the Census Data Centers.

Drinks and dessert will be provided at the luncheon.
Contact: Jane Taylor (tayloje@utk.edu) by September 6 to RSVP
Details: http://www.census.gov/ces/

Online course offered on human subjects research

The Office of Research announces a new online course on Human Subjects Research and the Institutional Review Board. This course is appropriate for all students who are or may be conducting research with human subjects. It will familiarize students and new faculty with the process of UT Knoxville's Institutional Review Board (IRB) and the various forms associated with the IRB process. A certificate of completion will be awarded at the end of the course. For registration or more information on this course please contact the Office of Research training coordinator (ortraining@utk.edu).

NIMBioS seeks applications for 2012 computational projects

The application deadline is approaching for spring 2012 project support by the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis. NIMBioS is soliciting proposals for working groups, investigative workshops, postdoctoral fellowships, and sabbatical fellowships on topics at the interface of biology and mathematics. The program is especially interested in areas of molecular, cell, and network biology, immunology and systems biology that have not been previously addressed at the institute. The National Science Foundation supports the NIMBioS initiative, with additional support from the Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and UT Knoxville.
Key date: September 1, 2011, submission of application for project support.
Details: http://nimbios.org/announcements/announcements

Webinars will share commercialization tips for faculty

A series of webinars is available to faculty interested in entrepreneurship as it relates to company/university interactions. The webinars feature faculty entrepreneurs who have already developed successful commercialization projects and startups. The webinars are scheduled in the first week of each month through December.
Details: https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/489517666

Office of Research seeks Scholar of Week names

The Office of Research is inviting nominations for Scholar of the Week, the weekly program that recognizes recent accomplishments by individual members of the UT Knoxville faculty.

Nominations for the award may come only from deans, department heads, and other faculty members. Descriptions should include a short paragraph noting the department and rank of the scholar, his or her specific field of work within the discipline, and the scholar's most recent noteworthy accomplishment, as well as selected previous scholarly awards and memberships of significance. A photo or a link to a photo should be included. The language of the nomination should be in nontechnical language suitable for a general audience but can include scholarly citations. Send nominations to Alan Rutenberg (arutenberg@utk.edu).

REMINDER: Certificate in proposal writing

The Office of Research is offering a Certificate in Grant-Writing and Proposal Development for members of the UT Knoxville research community. The certificate program comprises courses from the professional development curriculum now offered by the office and includes required courses and electives. Additional courses offered by the UT Employee and Organizational Development Office may augment the certificate but are not required for this certification.

The program is designed to give investigators a broad but thorough understanding of the grant-writing process, from locating appropriate funding opportunities and solicitations to evaluating the requirements of funding agencies and preparing a responsive proposal document. It will also provide an in-depth knowledge of the processes and procedures for submitting proposals at UT Knoxville.

There is no charge for participating in the courses or the certificate program. Investigators will not need to invest departmental or research resources in outside training, which is often expensive but not focused on the needs and requirements of UT research administration. Courses completed previously through the Office of Research will count toward achieving the certification.
Contact: Lesli Rowan (ortraining@utk.edu)
Details: http://research.utk.edu/training/certify.shtml

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Contact: Bill Dockery, dockeryb@utk.edu, 865-974-2187. Archived at http://research.utk.edu/news