

Office opens process for FY 12 Organized Research Units

The Office of Research is beginning the process of selecting continuing and potential organized research units for fiscal year 2012.

Organized research units are established and recognized campus, college or departmental research groups, centers, or institutes. Potential ORUs are emerging research centers that may not yet be official but are composed of an organized faculty group of sufficient number to have a significant impact on a defined topic or discipline.

For existing ORUs, step one of the review process involves

1. A progress report that provides brief written documents presenting (a) the ORU's primary goals for the current year and (b) an impact report emphasizing the role of the unit's effort on research achievements among specific faculty and departments, and
2. An outlook and funding proposal that sets out ongoing and new goals for next year, the use of requested funding, and an assessment of any variables that may influence chances of success over a two- to three-year period.

New ORUs should present a campus-level funding proposal detailing planned use of funds, additional sources of support, and a review of how these investments can provide substantial returns over two to three years.

Step two of the process will involve invited public presentations by selected organized research units that will detail their proposals address questions.

Key dates

Monday, February 7, 2011 at close of business – submission of documentation to the UT Office of Research.

March 7-8, 2011 – public hearings by invited ORU faculty.

Details: <http://research.utk.edu/orus/>

Mazzouccolo takes coordinator role at UTOR

Jim Mazzouccolo has been promoted to coordinator of research engagement for the UT Office of Research. Mazzouccolo formerly assisted in locating funding opportunities and managing e-mail lists to notify faculty about solicitations.

Mazzouccolo supports Susan Ballentine and Paul Montgomery, who are directors of engagement for the office. Ballentine specializes in cultivating corporate and foundation relationships in research-related areas. Montgomery establishes relationships with federal mission-oriented agencies like the Department of Defense and connects them with UT Knoxville faculty.

Mazzouccolo will coordinate meetings and campus visits and research organizations and personnel on behalf of research engagement efforts.



Center offers help for behavioral, social science proposals

UT's Center for the Study of Social Justice is offering support services for faculty from any discipline who are seeking to include research components from the social and behavioral sciences in funding proposals.

The services available include finding funding sources, assisting researchers in developing a calendar of milestones toward project completion, reviewing documents for compliance with solicitation guidelines, formatting biographical sketches, creating budgets in formats appropriate to the Office of Research and funding agencies, corresponding with co-investigators from other institutions to get letters and other information, uploading documents to Fastlane and Grants.gov, proofreading and editing, assisting investigators with consortium agreements, researching proposal-related questions, and post-award management.

The center will also work with department heads to identify faculty who should be seeking external funding.

Contact: Diana Moyers, (dmoyer@gmail.com, 865-974-5909)

Details: <http://cssj.utk.edu/>

UT wins role on A-P-L-U outreach and engagement panel

UT Knoxville's campus coordinator for outreach and engagement has been elected to a committee position with the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities.

Elizabeth Burman, who coordinates outreach through the UT Office of Research, was named to the executive committee of A-P-L-U's Council on Engagement and Outreach.

Burman assists in research proposal development with the Office of Research and is administrative liaison between the office and UT's Academic Outreach and Engagement Council. She recently led the preparation of UTK's application for listing on the new Carnegie Foundation rankings on community engagement. Burman has served as director of the Friends of the UT Gardens and program coordinator for the Marco Institute for Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

The Council on Engagement and Outreach is composed of university administrators and staff responsible for extension, continuing education and public-service functions at A-P-L-U member institutions and systems. Activities include outreach, engagement, extended education, public and government relations, regional and economic development.

UT and an increasing number of its peer institutions continue to articulate a strong intellectual foundation for outreach and engagement. UT's Office of Research and the Academic Outreach and Engagement Council continue to work together to support this form of outreach. Their work embraces all three aims of UTK's "VOL VISION 2015" strategic plan: value creation through economic, social and environmental development; original ideas through discovery, inquiry, innovation, scholarship and research; and leadership through the preparation of capable and ethical leaders of the future.



Qualities of Engagement

Engagement

- ... brings the university's intellectual resources to bear on societal needs.
- ... is a form of scholarship that cuts across teaching, research, and service.
- ... implies reciprocity, whereby both the institutions and partners in the community benefit and contribute.
- ... blends scientific knowledge from the university with experiential knowledge within the community to establish an environment of co-learning.
- ... involves shared decision-making.
- ... is a practice that enables faculty to be better scholars; enhances the learning experience for students; and multiplies the institution's impact on external constituencies.
- ... is actively listening to all stakeholders that reflect the diversity of our communities—especially including those stakeholders who have not been engaged before.
- ... is present when stakeholders see the university as the resource of choice when dealing with an issue or problem.
- ... documents and evaluates its effectiveness through traditional measures of academic excellence.
- ... is tied to public accountability and its quality is measured by impact and outcomes on the communities and individuals it serves.

High-value research equipment list posted

UT Knoxville Faculty who are preparing proposals for research funding can view a list of major research equipment that is already available on campus. The list, posted on the UT Office of Research web site, includes all equipment valued at \$100,000 or more, categorized by equipment description, location, funding center, contact, and inventory number.

Details: <http://research.utk.edu/pd/pdfs/inventory.pdf>

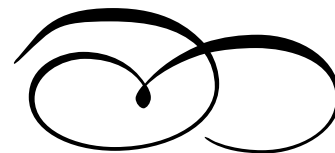
Postdoc opportunities list added to UTOR web

A list of postdoctoral opportunities has been added to the Office of Research web site. The new page presents fellowship and other postdoctoral support available in the arts and humanities, biology, business, education, energy, engineering, and the social sciences.

The opportunities are listed by deadline but can be resorted by other search criteria. The data are drawn from the Community of Science data base, which can also be accessed through www.cos.com.

Details: <http://research.utk.edu/funding/postdocs.shtml>

Contact: Jim Lloyd (jlloyd@utk.edu)



Office to help prepare NSF undergrad supplement proposals

Dozens of UTK faculty with funding from the National Science Foundation attended a recent workshop that explained how important and easy it is to apply for a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Supplement.

At the workshop, Wes Hines, interim vice chancellor for research, encouraged all NSF-funded faculty to apply for the REU Supplement and promised editorial support from the Office of Research Proposal Development Team to all who complete their three-page (maximum) application by Jan. 3.

With more than 100 grants currently funded by NSF at UTK, creating such REUs can significantly increase the number of undergraduates who have an opportunity to engage actively in research, Hines said. The Association of American Colleges and Universities has identified student participation in undergraduate research as one of 10 "high-impact practices" highlighted in various reports from the Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) initiative.

Steven Wilhelm from microbiology, James Plank from engineering, and Lou Gross from NIMBioS shared insights into the application process and hints about preparing successful applications. For more information or to receive copies of handouts and sample applications, contact Sharon Pound (spound@utk.edu).

Key date: January 3, 2011, application to UT Office of Research Proposal Development Team

Access coming to new grant-writing newsletter

Starting in December, the UT Office of Research will provide access to *Research Development & Grant-Writing Newsletter* for UT faculty and staff.

The newsletter, published by Academic Research Funding Strategies LLC, will be posted around the 15th of every month to the Office of Research web site.

The newsletter is the product of Lucy Deckard, former associate director of proposal development at Texas A&M University, and Mike Cronan, who directed proposal development offices at Texas A&M.

Details: <http://research.utk.edu/news/rdgw.shtml>

2011 Associateships through National Research Council

The National Research Council of the National Academies is soliciting applications for the 2011 Graduate, Postdoctoral, and Senior Research Associateship Programs that support research projects at federal research laboratories across the United States.

The programs provide scientists and engineers of unusual promise and ability the opportunity to perform research on problems largely of their own choosing that are compatible with the research interests of the sponsoring laboratories.

Fulltime associateships will be awarded competitively in 2011 for research in chemistry; earth, atmospheric, and space sciences; engineering, applied sciences and computer science, life and medical sciences, mathematics, space and planetary sciences, and physics.

Awards are for one or two years, renewable to a maximum of three years.

Applicants must contact research advisor/mentors at sponsoring laboratories before submitting to the National Research Council.

Key dates: February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1 – submission dates for 2011

Details: <http://www.national-academies.org/rap>

McDonnell Foundation 21st Century Science Initiative

The James S. McDonnell Foundation offers collaborative activity awards to initiate interdisciplinary discussions on problems or issues, to help launch interdisciplinary research networks, or to fund communities of researchers/practitioners dedicated to developing new methods, tools, and applications of basic research to applied problems.

The foundation's Studying Complex Systems program supports scholarship and research directed toward the development of theoretical and mathematical tools that can be applied to the study of complex, nonlinear systems. Research funded in this program will address issues in fields such as biology, biodiversity, climate, demography, epidemiology, technological change, economic development, governance, or computation.

The program's emphasis is on the development and application of theoretical models used in these research fields and not on particular fields per se. The foundation is particularly interested in projects attempting to apply complex systems approaches to real world problems where such approaches are not yet considered usual or mainstream.

Key date: Continuous application process

Details: <http://www.jsmf.org/programs/cs/>

NSF Dear Colleague letter encourages unsolicited proposals

In a recent Dear Colleague letter, the National Science Foundation is reminding researchers that the agency welcomes proposals not tied to specific solicitations when those proposals come from interdisciplinary research teams working at the interface of the mathematical, physical, and biological sciences. The scale of the research projects can range from sub-cellular to environmental.

Areas of interest include (a) physical and chemical mechanisms and mathematical/statistical theories that underlie biological processes, (b) the physical, chemical, mathematical, and statistical basis of biology involving one or more levels of biological interaction or complexity, and (c) the physical, chemical, genetic, and epigenetic principles that constrain how living systems adapt to changing environments.

The unsolicited proposals typically fall in the divisions within the Directorates of Biological Sciences, and Mathematical and Physical Sciences.

Key dates: submission windows vary by program and directorate

Details: <http://nsf.gov/pubs/2011/nsf11010/nsf11010.txt>

Nell I. Monday Fellowships for Women in Science

Sigma Delta Epsilon/Graduate Women in Science, Inc., is soliciting applications for three Nell I. Monday Fellowships of between \$1,000 and \$10,000 for the purpose of increasing knowledge of the fundamental sciences and encouraging research careers in the sciences for women. Awards will be made to women holding a degree from a recognized institution of higher learning who show outstanding ability and promise in research and who perform research. Applicants must be a graduate student, post-doc, or early-stage junior faculty in financial need for completion of research. Preference will be given for applicants in food science or nutrition.

Key date: January 15, 2011, electronic submission of application

Details: <http://gwis.org/programs.html>

REMINDER: Date nears for DHS undergraduate opportunities

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Oak Ridge Associated Universities is soliciting undergraduates for one of three summer scholarship programs:

- DHS Scholarship Program, intended for students interested in pursuing basic science and technology innovations of interest to the DHS
- DHS HS-STEM Summer Institute Program, which provides a 10-week summer research experience for undergraduates
- DHS Summer Research Team Program for Minority-Serving Institutions, which provides research opportunities to increase scientific leadership at minority-serving institutions.

Key date: January 5, 2011, online application

Details: <http://www.ora.gov/dhseducationprograms/>

Note: This ORAU web site will be down for maintenance on Dec. 19, 2010.