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Office of Research & Engagement

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Office of Research Announces Summer Grant Writing Institute

The Office of Research has scheduled UTK's fourth annual Grant Writing Institute. This summer boot camp has two key objectives:

—To improve the ability of UTK faculty to write high quality grant proposals that will succeed in an increasingly competitive environment

—To engage participants in the culture of sponsored research via interactions with experienced mentors, meetings with grant program officers, and knowledge of the peer review process

Twelve faculty will be accepted into the program. Six UTK colleges have been invited to participate as co-sponsors of the event.

Preference will be given to applications from tenure-track junior faculty or to recently tenured faculty who may have a strong scholarly record but are relatively new to sponsored research. From mid-May through mid-June, participants will meet twice weekly for grant writing workshops and will go on an overnight field trip to the Washington, D.C. Stipends are available for faculty in several sponsor colleges.

Participants will be required to submit a fully developed, internally reviewed proposal to a targeted grant program, most likely in the fall semester 2013.

Each participant will be paired with a senior faculty mentor and invited to nominate a UT graduate student to participate as a graduate fellow. Mentors and graduate fellows will receive stipends.

Key Dates

February 7, 2013 — Application deadline for faculty participants

March 1, 2013 — Application deadline for mentors and graduate fellows

Details: www.research.utk.edu

Forms: <http://research.utk.edu/training/gwi.shtml>

Contact: Bob Porter (reporter@utk.edu, 865-974-3053)

7 internal funds aid faculty scholars

The Scholarly Activity and Research Incentive Funds include seven sources of support for faculty scholars. The Office of Research administers some \$900,000 that can be used for various purposes from equipment and exhibit expenses to foreign travel and visits to program officers. The funds:

The Equipment and Infrastructure Fund, that provides for major equipment purchase and upgrades

The Exhibit, Performance & Publication Expense Fund, that helps with the costs of such scholarly activities

The Foreign Travel Fund, supporting scholars presenting outside North America

Summer Graduate Research Assistantship Fund, providing funding for a graduate student to help with a faculty member's research over the summer semester

Opportunities Fund, supporting pilot studies, workshops and conferences at UTK, and similar new initiatives

Supplemental Funding for In-Residence Fellowship Awards, assisting tenured and tenure-track faculty with housing costs at fellowship sites

Travel To Engage Program Officers Fund, allowing faculty members to meet managers and directors of funding organizations.

Faculty interested in any of these internal resources should visit the web page for SARIF. Funding may be limited to certain times in the academic year or may have matching support.

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

Sophisticated technologies being used to find plagiarism in grant proposals

Federal agencies that fund research and other scholarly activities have increased their use of text analysis software that can identify plagiarism in funding proposals and related documents.

In a recent column in the Chronicle of Higher Education, Karen Markin noted that plagiarism is considered research misconduct not only in undergraduate writings but also in grant proposals to federal agencies and warned academic researchers that some of the same technologies used to discover student plagiarism are being used by federal agencies to identify illicit copying of texts by faculty proposal writers.

"It is important for scholars to understand that copying information or text from someone else's grant proposal is considered plagiarism — just as if the document copied had been published in a scholarly journal — whether or not that proposal received money," wrote Markin, a research administrator at the University of Rhode Island.

Borrowing from others' texts can get a faculty member banned from submitting future proposals and may also damage career prospects for tenure and promotion, she said.

According to National Science Foundation presentations in 2011, some 41 percent of misconduct allegations involved verbatim, intellectual theft of others' materials. NSF officials also noted a change in the nature of the plagiarism: More than a decade ago, plagiarism in research proposals involved large blocks of copy and figures from a few documents. More recent thefts of text involve single sentences from a large number of sources. Self-plagiarism is also an agency concern.

The Office of Research Integrity in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services identifies plagiarism as "the most widely recognized and one of the most serious violations of the contract between readers and writers. Moreover, plagiarism is one of the three major types of scientific misconduct as defined by the Public Health Service; the other two being falsification and fabrication."

The DHHS office maintains a comprehensive web resource on plagiarism, self-plagiarism, and other "lesser crimes of writing."

Taylor Eighmy, UTK vice chancellor for research, notes that the university is committed to the highest standards of ethical conduct in its research activities, including ethical writing practices.

"UT is pledged to the responsible conduct of research, not only in terms of the integrity of our intellectual product but in all areas of the scholarly endeavor," Eighmy said. "We look forward to working with the faculty to continue the university's high levels of compliance."

The Chronicle article:

http://chronicle.com/article/Plagiarism-in-Grant-Proposals/136161/?cid=ja&utm_source=ja&utm_medium=en

The DHHS Office of Research Integrity website:

<http://ori.hhs.gov/avoiding-plagiarism-self-plagiarism-and-other-questionable-writing-practices-guide-ethical-writing>

Recent Office of Research article on plagiarism:

http://research.utk.edu/newsletters/news_12_06_08.shtml

The Office of Research FY 2013-14 Budget Proposals & Hearings Current & Newly Proposed Organized Research Units

Proposals due February 8, 2013

Forming and sustaining multidisciplinary research groups is particularly encouraged.

Hearing Schedule

March 4, 2012, 12:30 - 5 p.m.

for institutes & centers reporting to the VCRE

March 5, 2013, 8 a.m. - noon

March 11, 2013, 1:00 - 5 p.m.

March 12, 2013, 8 a.m. - noon

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

Information about personnel changes needed

Please notify the Grants and Contracts unit in the Office of Research when there are changes in departmental personnel designated as proposal approvers in the TERA-PAMS proposal management system, including department head, associate department head, director, or others who are designated as proposal approvers in TERA-PAMS. Debbie Hampstead (dhampste@utk.edu) and Miriam Campo (mcampo@utk.edu) should be notified of such changes.

EURēCA dates set; entry deadline nears

The 17th annual Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement will be held March 18-19, 2013, in the University Center Ball Room. Participants will set up their presentations between noon and 4 p.m. on March 18 in the ballroom. Judging will begin at 5:30 p.m. All participants must be present during the entire judging period.

On March 19, the event is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. An awards ceremony will be held in the University Center's Tennessee Auditorium on March 19 at 6 p.m.

Key date: January 25, 2013 at noon — applications are due
Details: <http://research.utk.edu/eureca>

REMINDER: NSF merit review guidelines

Proposals due on January 14, 2013 and thereafter must follow the merit review guidelines included in the revised Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide that is effective in January 2013.

Details: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf13001/index.jsp>

CURRENT offers undergrad research experience

CURRENT, the Center for Ultra-wide-area Resilient Electric Energy Transmission Networks, is seeking students for an eight-week residential research experience at the research center in summer 2013. The program is funded by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy. Undergraduate engineering students from UT and other institutions are eligible to apply.

Key date: March 22, 2013 - submission of online application
Details: <http://current.utk.edu/reu>

UT will nominate for engagement award

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2013 Outreach Scholarship W.K. Kellogg Foundation Engagement Award. One of these projects will be selected to be submitted by the UT Knoxville for the regional Outreach Scholarship W.K. Kellogg Foundation Engagement Award. The winners of five regional awards are celebrated at two national conferences and become finalists for the national C. Peter Magrath University Community Engagement Award. The winning nominee will be supported through the UT Office of Research to complete and submit a final application for the award.

Key date: January 25, 2013 — submission of nominations
Details: <http://research.utk.edu/pd/magrath.shtml>

December issue of funding newsletter posted

The December 2012 issue of *Research Development & Grant-Writing Newsletter* (Vol. 3, No. 4) is available on the Office of Research website, showcasing the following features and columns:

From Silos to Synergy: The Yellow Brick Road of Grant Writing
Integrating PI Experiences from Various Agencies
Saturated Superlatives Clog the Arteries of Proposals
Optimizing the Proposal Planning and Development Process
Why Formatting Matters, Part 2: Graphics

NOTE: The newsletter is proprietary to Academic Research Funding Strategies LLC. The Office of Research subscription requires faculty and staff to use their net ID and login. The login process does not support all browsers.

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

COMPLIANCE CORNER**Biosafety Training**

Faculty, staff, and students working with infectious agents, acute biological toxins, and human-derived materials must attend an initial in-class training offered by the Biosafety Office. The training is about two hours. Training is generally available two times a month. Visit the office web site for training requirements, courses, and the training schedule.

Reminder: The 2012 online annual refresher training modules on Blackboard are still open. If you are working at Biosafety Level-2 and/or with human-derived materials and have not yet completed your annual refresher, please log on and complete the appropriate modules by the end of January 2013.

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

Sequestration postponed; OR site tracks news

Congressional passage of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 over the New Year's holiday has resolved the tax-revenue aspects of the "fiscal cliff" budget sequestration for the moment but has postponed the drastic across-the-board budget reductions that were a part of the original sequestration legislation. The budget cuts envisioned in the sequestration bill have been delayed for about two months. Without further legislation, the sequestration would occur on March 27, 2013, according to information from the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities. The New Year's agreements also lowered the potential sequestration by \$24 billion (to \$1.176 trillion from \$1.2 trillion) through increased tax revenues and cuts to the discretionary budget caps.

Complicating the budgetscape is fact that the sequestration details will share center stage with the impending need for a bill authorizing additional federal borrowing to pay for already-approved Congressional programming. The Office of Research continues to track and post information about possible cuts to research funding using sources at federal agencies, postings from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities.

Details: http://research.utk.edu/fiscal_cliff/

NIH held its own in FY12, administrator writes

In her first blog post of the year, Sally Rockey, deputy director for extramural research for the National Institutes of Health, highlighted newly available fiscal 2012 agency grant data, revealing that the historically low success rate for research project grants in 2011 — 18% — did not drop further but was maintained in 2012. The rate has hovered around 20% since 2006, down from a peak of 32% from 1998 to 2001.

Rockey also noted the success rate for big, "center" grants — which average \$1.9 million — dropped to 33% in 2012 from 37% the previous year. The historic low for these grants is 31% in 2004.

In a similar post in January 2012, Rockey pointed out that the percentage of women investigators was flat in fiscal 2011; for 2012, the number was up one percent to an all-time high of 30 percent. But after NIH's concerted efforts to improve the rate for new investigators in 2011 led to a 15 percent rate, equal to that of established ones, 2012 found the rate took a dive, hitting a record low of 13 percent compared to 16 percent for established researchers. That information is available in a link to the NIH data book included in Rockey's blog.

Rockey wrote that when she reviewed the 2012 data, her first thought was, "We made it," citing the stable research grant success rate despite what she called "a flat budget and complex fiscal times." Her post closes with a familiar ring of anxiety mixed with resolve: "Even though the current fiscal year remains uncertain, we know that above all, it is critical to support your continued work on innovative science."

Details: <http://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2013/01/02/fy2012-by-the-numbers-success-rates-applications-investigators-and-awards/>

Pursuit seeking undergrad papers for fall issue

Faculty who have undergraduates preparing advanced, original, research-based papers for the spring 2013 semester should recommend submission of the papers to *Pursuit: The Journal of Undergraduate Research at the University of Tennessee* for publication in the fall 2013 issue. The journal offers undergraduates from all colleges the possibility of seeing their papers published. Graduates may submit their work within one year of their graduation date.

Key dates: April 1, 2013 - May 31, 2013 — online submission period
Details: <http://trace.tennessee.edu/pursuit>

