

# ***TIGER TIPS***

## ***RESOURCES FOR AUBURN RESEARCHERS***

### **Communication between the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) and Faculty: A Status Report**

In our June *Tiger Tips*, we discussed upcoming programs that would provide faculty with a continuing flow of information about the services that OSP can provide to ensure that the faculty receives the assistance and support necessary to engage in a wide range of extramural funding activities. We pointed out that to be effective; however, the flow of information must be two-way. It is important to invite opinions and to hear what is said.

In June, we asked, “What is on the horizon”? Here is an update to the then forecast events:

- A faculty-wide survey distributed in late August 2012 that will assess the perception that faculty have of OSP and the role it plays in supporting faculty extramural funding, what OSP is doing well, suggested areas of improvement, suggestions for new roles and responsibilities, and, importantly, how OSP can help faculty be successful in this regard.
  - **Status** - The survey was distributed to the university community on October 2nd with a closing date of October 15th. The survey can be accessed through the following link: [https://auburn.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_9Mina93ZkX58sOU](https://auburn.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_9Mina93ZkX58sOU)
- Participation in New Faculty Orientation with an initial introduction to OSP followed by a series of workshops on topics such as pre-award services, proposal and budget preparation, and compliance.
  - **Status** - The OSP Education and Communication staff participated in New Faculty Orientation on September 28<sup>th</sup>. A highlight of the event was a presentation on Grantsmanship that was well attended and well received. As a new addition to this event, OSP will be hosting a “Meet and Greet” with new faculty on October 4<sup>th</sup> to introduce them to the OSP contract administrators and to build a rapport that will hopefully result in the development and submission of quality proposals for external funding.
- Attendance at department meetings and meetings with individual faculty.
  - **Status** - OSP staff has held meetings with faculty to discuss topics such as the new “My Funding” tool that will assist faculty and staff with grant tracking and budget management; the new Gifts/Sponsored Projects policy, and the new Financial Conflict of Interest (FCOI) policy.

- Communication on compliance with Federal and University Regulations/Policies.
  - **Status** - The new FCOI Requirements went into effect on August 24<sup>th</sup>. Having faculty participate in piloting the program and holding an informational workshop for the faculty contributed to a successful implementation of the new FCOI procedures and disclosure process.
  
- A Departmental Administrator Certification Course
  - **Status** - On September 26<sup>th</sup> the Departmental Research Administrator (DRA) certification program was successfully launched. A full class of 20 participants was in attendance; a waiting list of nine is on standby for the spring semester.
  
- My Funding Dashboard
  - **Status** - In collaboration with the Office of Contracts & Grants Accounting, an Investigator Toolbox (My Funding) that will enable an investigator to obtain real time information on sponsored projects financial information has been developed and was released on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Access to “My Funding” is obtained through *AU Access*.

We will continue to share ideas with you and listen to your concerns and comments, both positive and not so positive. Our goal continues to be providing faculty with workable solutions and support that will enhance their ability to conduct research at Auburn University. We look forward to your thoughts as our education program evolves. If you have questions about the OSP Education and Communication program please contact Bob Holm ([rz0021@auburn.edu](mailto:rz0021@auburn.edu), 4-5877) or Tony Ventimiglia ([ventiaf@auburn.edu](mailto:ventiaf@auburn.edu), 4-5954).