Liberal Arts Grants Services Proposal and Submission Statistics
September 1, 2014 – August 31, 2015

Grant Proposals: Overview
In the 2014-15 fiscal year (FY), College of Liberal Arts Grants Services worked on 137 total grant proposals, the same number as in FY 2013-14.¹ This document provides an overview of our office’s proposals and submissions on behalf of COLA faculty and graduate students.

Faculty and graduate students from 26 departments, centers, and institutes submitted grant proposals. This represents a decrease of 5 units submitting applications compared to the 2013-14 FY. Of the 137 proposals our office worked on, 112 were submitted to the sponsor, 20 were withdrawn or abandoned by the principal investigators after significant staff time was spent preparing the proposals, and 5 administrative actions were completed.² Anthropology, Geography and the Environment, Government, and Linguistics were the most active (61% of the proposals). These are the same units that submitted the most grants in FY 2013-14.

Success Rates
As of September 8, 2015, our success rate for submitted proposals for FY 2014-2015 is 37%. Of the 112 proposals submitted to sponsors by our office, 42 have been awarded, 18 have been rejected, and 52 are still under review. Our success rate for the 109 proposals submitted in FY 2013-14 was 50%.

Proposals by Sponsor
The majority of grant proposals submitted through our office (53%) were made to U.S. government agencies, such as the National Science Foundation (NSF), The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the U.S. Department of Education. This figure is down from 64% in FY 2013-14. 26% of proposals were to U.S. foundations and non-profits, up from 18% in FY 2013-14. Proposals to other U.S. universities represent 14% of the total proposals, up from 4% in FY 2013-14. Of the 19 proposals submitted to other U.S. universities, 13 were sub-awards and 6 were direct grants. Grant applications to international universities represented 2% of the total submissions, down from 8% in 2013-14. International foundations (2%) were down from 4% in 2013-14, and International governments (1%) were up from 0% in 2013-14. U.S. corporate sponsors were not represented this year, down from 4% in FY 2013-14. One proposal was submitted to the State of Texas (none in FY2013-14).

¹ This figure does not represent all grant proposals and submissions within the College, as it excludes applications facilitated by grants and contracts specialists in some of our units. Units submitting independently include the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies (LLILAS), Middle Eastern Studies, the Population Research Center (PRC), Psychology, and the Institute for Urban Policy Research & Analysis (IUPRA).
² Administrative actions include work on grant applications requiring documentation for OSP or PIs, but not submitted by our office.
Expenditures and Indirect Costs (IDC)

Sponsored research in the College of Liberal Arts generated total expenditures of $21,007,298 during the 2014-15 fiscal year, compared to $19,182,390 in 2013-14. The indirect costs generated by these expenditures totaled $4,560,052 in 2014-15 and $3,873,358 in 2013-14.

The table below shows the grant funding expended and IDC generated from fiscal years 2011-2012 through 2014-2015. The information represents only projects managed by the UT Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP).³

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Fiscal Year Expenditures for all COLA Sponsored Projects</th>
<th>IDC generated by all COLA Sponsored Projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>$23,936,302</td>
<td>$4,561,159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>$19,179,076</td>
<td>$4,376,471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>$19,182,390</td>
<td>$3,873,358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-2015</td>
<td>$21,007,298</td>
<td>$4,650,052</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

³ Many graduate-student grant proposals do not require pre-approval by the Office of Sponsored Projects and are consequently not represented here. Stipend-based fellowships and archive-research fellowships are typically paid directly to the student or the faculty member, so humanities fields may be especially underrepresented in the report on expenditures.
The following two charts illustrate unit-level expenditures and generated IDC as percentages of the total amounts for the year, with units generating less than 1% of the total excluded.

*The above chart represents 93.6% of the yearly expenditures. 21 other units produced less than 1% of the combined expenditures each, for a total of 6.4% of the yearly expenditures.
The above chart represents 94.1% of the yearly IDC generated by College units. 16 other units generated less than 1% of the combined IDC each, for a total of 5.9% of the yearly IDC generated.

**Grant Submissions by Graduate Students**
In FY 2014-15, graduate students submitted, with the assistance of Grants Services staff, 50 grant proposals under the supervision of a faculty advisor, one submission less than in FY 2013-14. Graduate student grant proposals came from eight departments, with Anthropology students making the most submissions (18, or 36% of the total).
Liberal Arts Grants Services Office Activities

December and January were peak months for grant submissions, with other bumps in application numbers in November to early December and in May, July and August.

Training and Campus Outreach Activities

The Liberal Arts Grants Services team initiates activities designed to promote a culture of grant seeking in the College. Our main focus is on educational activities that assist applicants in preparing applications that meet sponsor and UT Austin administrative and regulatory requirements and follow best practices in grant writing. We are also committed to creating communities within the College's research areas to assist all those who work on grants, pre- and post-award, as they establish their own support networks that can provide assistance with all aspects of the grant process. These activities include:

- Workshops that train faculty and graduate students about best practices in grant preparation and writing and in specific formats and idiosyncrasies of applications to various sponsors.
- A weekly Grants Digest that informs members of the research community about upcoming funding opportunities of interest to our research community. The Grants Digest listserv averages 480 subscribers, and searchable past digests are available on our website.
- Individual grant searches for project-specific interests when the Grants Digest does not present viable opportunities. Foundation opportunities are the main focus of these searches.
- Individual meetings with faculty and graduate students, in which we discuss application-specific information; sponsor-specific budget requirements; document formatting; and UT processes, procedures, and regulations.

Our campus outreach activities include working with other units within COLA and with other UT Austin colleges and departments, in particular the Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP), the University
Development Office (UDO), and units in the Office of Research Support (ORS). Maintaining a sense of shared goals and collaboration with these units allows our staff to stay up-to-date on changes in policy and procedures, and to get clarifications when questions arise.

**Liberal Arts Grants Services Workshop Series**

*The 2014-15 Workshop Series for faculty and departmental research administrators included:*  
Submitting Grants at UT Austin  
Reading Grant Solicitations  
NEH Grant Submissions Workshop  
Subaward Workshop

*The 2014-15 Workshop Series for graduate students included:*  
National Science Foundation (NSF) Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants (DDRIG) Workshop, presented once per long semester  
Grants for Grads, Part 1: Identifying Opportunities  
Grants for Grads, Part 2: Grant Writing  
Grants for Grads, Part 3: Grant Budgets

In 2014-15, 85 faculty, graduate students, and COLA departmental administrative staff attended workshops presented by Liberal Arts Grants Services staff. Faculty, graduate students, and administrative staff from other Colleges also attended some of our workshops.

**Workshops Presented Upon Request**

Liberal Arts Grants Services staff presented two workshops for graduate students to individual units at their request. We conducted an NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant Workshop and Budget Preparation session for Rebecca Torres’s class in Geography and the Environment. We also developed a Graduate Student Grant Writing and Searching workshop, which we presented to Mollie Marchione’s class at the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies.

**Individual Meetings with Faculty and Graduate Students**

During the 2014-15 year, Liberal Arts Grants Services staff members held approximately 73 face-to-face individual meetings with faculty, graduate students, and departmental staff members to discuss best practices in grant writing and application preparation, to conduct searches for funding opportunities in order to identify the most promising prospects, and to clarify other grant-related matters like budget and proposal specifics. The majority of the communication with PIs and other personnel involved in grant applications is done via email and telephone.

**Research Support Network (RSN)**

The COLA Research Support Network (RSN) is a group of COLA employees who assist with grant preparation and post-award work at the department, center, and institute levels. The purpose of the group is to provide networking opportunities to administrative staff members who provide grant support throughout COLA. We are working on ways to increase the activities of the RSN and to provide additional support to COLA units through collaboration with RSN members.
**Limited Submissions**
The Liberal Arts Grants Services Office assists in disseminating and completing limited-submission funding opportunities that are announced by OSP and ORS. In 2014-15, our office processed 29 limited submission opportunities. This number will diminish significantly with the new procedures implemented for limited submissions, which are now mostly made directly to the VPR’s office.

**Humanities Research Awards (HRA)**
Our staff assists in disseminating information about and collecting applications for the College Humanities Research Award. In 2015 we received 12 applications and funded 7. Our annual HRA Symposium was held in February 2015.

**Staff Professionalization**
In August 2015, the College of Liberal Arts Office for Research and Graduate Studies sent Sr. Grants and Contracts Specialist Kathy Thatcher to the National Council of Research Administrators' (NCURA) 57th Annual Meeting to learn about matters related to best practices in research administration, new federal policies and interests, and various federal and non-federal sponsors’ updates to their current policies and proposal preparation instructions. Sr. Grants and Contracts Specialist Vivian Smyrl is also an NCURA member. The March/April 2015 NCURA Magazine featured an article written by the Liberal Arts Grants Services staff, "Creating a Culture of Grant-Seeking."

Grants and Contract Specialist Jason Leubner attended nine meetings and training sessions related to his work. The sessions were sponsored by the University Development Office, the Office of Sponsored Projects, the Office of Research Support, and Liberal Arts Instructional Technology Services (LAITS). Dr. Leubner was involved in testing the INFLUENNT interface and providing feedback to the VPR’s office about its usefulness to Liberal Arts. He also attended the university-wide informational meetings about this project.

**Staff Portfolio**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kathy Thatcher:</th>
<th>Jason Leubner:</th>
<th>Vivian Smyrl:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal, international, and foundation proposals</td>
<td>Federal, foundation, and graduate student grant proposals</td>
<td>Post-award for all types of grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Support Network coordination</td>
<td>Weekly Grants Digest</td>
<td>Post-award workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual reports for the office</td>
<td>Graduate student workshops</td>
<td>Compliance requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty and staff workshops</td>
<td>Web development</td>
<td>Transfer grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forms and toolkits available on the office website</td>
<td>Dissertation boot camp</td>
<td>Humanities Research Award and Symposium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Program external reviews</td>
<td>Special research projects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>