

OSP

OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROJECTS
Helping Make Research Happen

Sponsored Projects Award Administration Newsletter

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Richter & Dockwiler Present at the Financial Research Administrators' Conference



NCURA held its tenth Financial Research Administrator's conference in La Quinta, CA February 9—11, 2009. Jason Richter, the Associate Director of our SPAA, was asked to co-lead discussion groups on the topics of effort reporting, cost transfers, and F&A revenue distribution with other research institution peers. David Dockwiler, Assistant Director of our SPAA, was asked to speak on the topic of document imaging and electronic filing of sponsored projects documents for use in financial research administration.

http://www.ncura.edu/content/educational_programs/sites/frax/index.php
http://www.ncura.edu/content/educational_programs/sites/frax/docs/finalprogram012309.pdf

Sponsored Projects Award Administration Newsletter -- Service

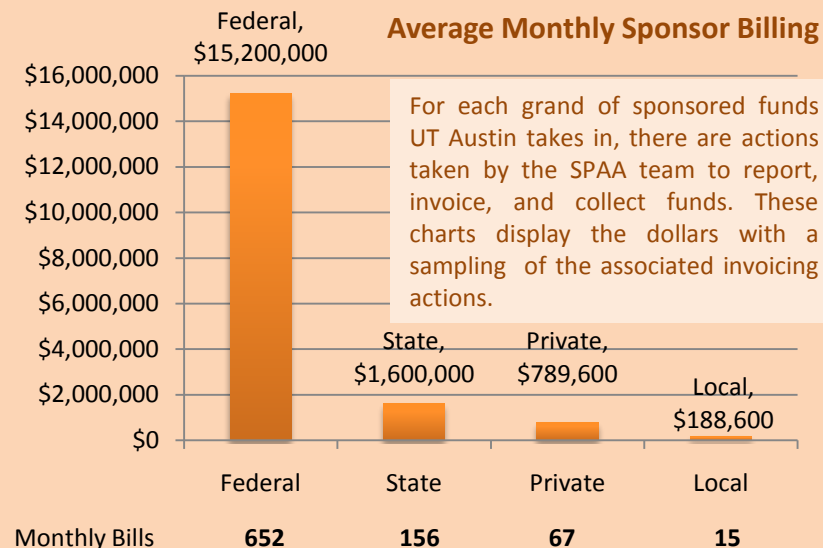
Audits On behalf of UT Austin's Researchers, in the months of September 2008 through February 2009, SPAA has handled audits from ONR, Sandia, TX Dept Family & Protective Services, TX Dept of State Health Services, Internal Audit, our annual A-133 Single Audit conducted by the State Auditors Office, and preparation of our annual research expenditure reports covering FY07-08 submitted to the TX Higher Education Board and the National Science Foundation.

If your department is contacted about an audit, please contact SPAA (oa.jrichter@austin.utexas.edu). SPAA is available to assist with the audit process and can serve as your liaison with the audit entity.

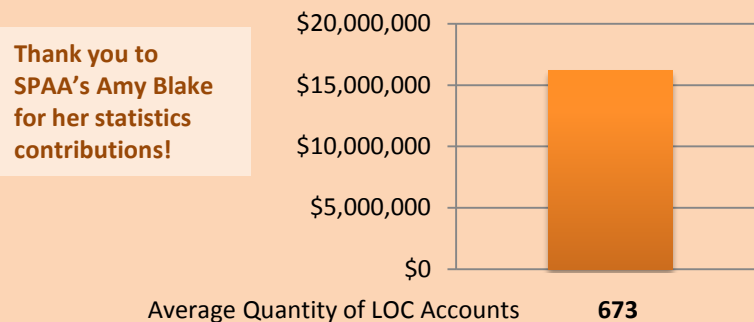
Sept During the month of September, SPAA activities increase to full-throttle focused on the following activities: final reporting, new award set-ups, closeout reporting for Federal Fiscal Year End, preparation of portions of the annual financial report including the Schedule of Expenditures on Federal Awards, along with our routine invoicing and collection activities.

CRA SPAA's Tania Tost has hosted study sessions for central and departmental research administrators wanting to achieve Certified Research Administrator status every other Monday since September. Passing the CRA exam requires correctly answering hundreds of detailed questions about all aspects of research administration. Interested in being a CRA and showing your expertise? www.cra-cert.org
Interested in future study sessions? Ask oa.jrichter@austin.utexas.edu

SPAA's Service Statistics



Federal Letter of Credit Draws



Sponsored Projects Award Administration

Newsletter -- People



Meet Henrike de Haas, the Finance Manager for OSP – SPAA. Henrike’s career at UT Austin began eleven years ago. Henrike joined the OSP team in June 2005. In her tenure as Finance Manager, Henrike has developed a reputation for being honest, hardworking, and humble. She graciously agreed to be interviewed.

Henrike, you have a delightful accent. Where are you originally from?

I grew up in Germany. My dad is from Holland. I lived in Ireland for a few years. I am a loyal Texan since 1983 and would not have it any other way. I graduated from UT.

What do you enjoy here on the UT Campus?

I enjoy after-work exercise classes at the Texas Union, and going to shows at the Cactus Café. I enjoy checking out books from the libraries and attending campus events and lectures. I like to take strolls on campus during my lunch break.

Spotlight On – SPAA’s Financial Manager Henrike de Haas



Where do you enjoy dining on the 40 acres?

I like the salads at Field of Greens.

What motivates you in your work?

I see our PIs and the Research Community at UT... as our customers, and I am motivated to provide excellent customer service to them. OSP’s great team spirit motivates me to be a productive and valuable member of the team.

Why do you prefer to work at the University of Texas?

At UT, we keep in mind that we are a public institution and our true constituents are the people of Texas.

What do you wish UT Austin’s PIs and Research Administrators knew about SPAA?

We work diligently behind the scenes to make your life easier. We submit financial reports, we collect funds from sponsors, we field auditor’s questions, and more. Also, we really are nice people!

What would you like UT Austin’s PIs and Research Administrators to remember about you, Henrike?

I feel very fortunate to be here and hope that my service benefits your very important work. ♦

Sponsored Projects Award Administration Newsletter -- Awareness



Did you know? NIH has published its updated salary cap. Effective January 1, 2009 the salary rate has increased from \$191,300 to \$196,700. Proposal Tip: If a PI's salary is over the cap that does not preclude you from proposing, but does limit the amount of salary that can be paid from the grant. Your Grants & Contracts Specialist on OSP's proposal team can assist you with budget questions related to the NIH Cap. Effort Reporting Reminder: Salary in excess of the cap should be shown as cost share when certifying your effort. Find the NIH cap amount here: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/salcap_summary.htm

Customer Service: During 10 business days, SPAA's team of 9 Grants & Contracts Specialists serving on our account contact team returned 45 calls each on average (avg) – the team's avg 405 calls. They replied to an avg of 124 emails each - a combined avg of **1,116 emails!**

Welch Reporting Season Recipients should look for emails from SPAA's Angie York in April, May, and June in preparation for the Welch financial reporting deadline July 15th. Welch reports require original signatures from their PIs. Angie works with UT's Welch recipients in advance to plan the most convenient time for PIs to sign after Angie prepares the reports for them in June. Angie York is a great resource for questions about Welch financial reporting. oa.ayork@austin.utexas.edu
Info about the Welch Foundation Grants and Awards is available here: <http://www.welch1.org/>

Effort Reporting

Enhancements to our effort reporting system are anticipated for Fall 2009. Improvements to the user-friendliness and department oversight tools should make effort reporting in October a more pleasant experience for PIs and their Research Administrators. For our April 2009 effort reporting window, the system will operate at the same level of quality that our PIs have come to expect from our ECS system. Questions can be directed to effort@austin.utexas.edu.

Have you seen it yet?

OSP SPAA has launched a new Effort Reporting page intended to be our one-stop-shop for everything effort related. Check back in April for additional resources: http://www.utexas.edu/research/osp/effort_reporting.html