Financial Strategic Services - Research Administration & Accounting Unit Updates

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Context and Purpose

As part of the broader Controller's Unit realignment, a new Research Administration and Accounting (RAA) unit was created with goals to:

- Facilitate a heightened focus on research administration
- Streamline and consolidate tasks/activities
- Build efficiencies and strengthen partnerships within FSS and with its partner units and stakeholders
- Optimize risk mitigation efforts
Research Administration Objectives

- Increase capacity for post award research administration activities
- Standardize policy/compliance application and processes
- Identify and remedy gaps in support or training in research administration
- Reinforce regulatory compliance and OSRAA policy through operational processes (*the how & when of compliance*)
- Leverage existing expertise and adopt best practices across FSS
- In summary, risk mitigation, partnership, and efficiency
Research Administration – Risk Mitigation

Risk mitigation & organizational efficiency through widespread adoption of best practices and use of resources

- Grant specific CORE reports
  - RES0065 proactively identifies specific risks in aggregated dataset
  - FIN1785 identifies potentially unallowable expenses in aggregated dataset

- Standard, comprehensive closeout checklist
  - Thorough, consistent review of expenses and status of compliance requirements
  - Starts at 120 days ahead of project expiration

- New award communication to PIs
  - Ensures accurate and proactive “translation” of proposal budget and scope of work
  - Establishes clear contacts/communication channels with FSS
Research Administration – Partnership

Stronger communication channels and PI engagement

➢ Within FSS – building a community of practice
  • Routine grants-focused meetings across FSS units
  • Newly established FSS grants listserv at fssgrants@lists.oregonstate.edu
  • Building on expertise, mentoring/training to share knowledge

➢ Across research administration support infrastructure
  • Routine meetings with OSRAA
  • Representation on FSS/RO workgroup

➢ With PIs
  • Quarterly check-ins with PIs – monthly 120 ahead of closeout - and greater focus on PI communication and education
Research Administration
Improving Data & Processes

Expanded data analysis & process improvement

- Moving the needle through:
  - Building capacity with new efficiencies
  - Minimizing errors & rework

- JV & LD analysis
  - Using “reason codes” - getting to the why behind corrections
  - Working with DFA IT to convert AWA report PHRLRAR to CSV
  - RACR activity code on administrative cost overruns – metrics

- New compliance resources/practices
  - PAR vs. payroll auditing process
  - Partnering with A/P for front-end review of potentially unallowable expenses
Accounting Objectives

- Standardize best practices and build economies of scale
  - Consolidate and/or share resources around operations of routine transactional work
  - Leverage and share existing successes and efficiencies
  - Central review/distribution of status reports
- Better respond to ebbs/flows of workflow across FSS
  - Workshare process
- Increase visibility of “big picture” across FSS
  - MOU tracking file
  - JV analysis
Questions?