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UIS Grants and Contracts Bulletin

Summary of FY 05 Activity

Funding from outside grants and contracts fell slightly in FY05 despite that fact that applications (both in number and in dollars requested) were up over FY04. UIS submitted 83 applications for funding, requesting a total of \$11.3 million. The campus received awards for 58 of those projects, for total funding of \$5.9 million.

Statistics from around the country show that this past year was exceptionally competitive in the grants arena. For example, the National Science Foundation experienced a 15-year low in the success rates of its applicants.

Support from the state of Illinois remained UIS' top source of outside funding at 71%. Other funding sources included the federal government (8.9%), corporations (.4%), and not-for-profit organizations (11.7%).

The Institute for Legal and Policy Studies remained the top grossing unit, garnering just under \$2 million in support.

Individual awards, as well as a summary of award activity by unit, are listed on the interior pages of this Bulletin.

FY 06 Activity & Awards

A number of proposals for activity in FY06 have been submitted; they will be reported in detail in the next issue of the Grants & Contracts Bulletin.

Review of Services Provided by Grants and Contracts Office

The Grants and Contracts Office at the University of Illinois at Springfield resides in the Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Grants and Contracts has primary responsibility for:

- Internal approval of proposals submitted to external sponsors
- Implementation of University of Illinois research-related policies, including
 - Conflict of Commitment and Interest
 - Patents and Copyrights
 - Academic Integrity in Research and Publications
- Review of projects involving human subjects in research
- Review of projects involving animal subjects in research

Grants and Contracts provides various services for UIS faculty, staff and students. These services include:

- Identification of external funding sources
- Interpretation of sponsor guidelines and requirements
- Assistance with all stages of proposal development, including budget preparation
- Maintenance of a homepage, complete with links to relevant information and downloadable forms
- Presentations on topics such as proposal writing and human subjects in research
- Assistance in finalizing protocols before submission to the Institutional Review Board for Protection of Human Subjects

Deb Koua, the Grants and Contracts Coordinator, is available for individual consultation or group presentations. Please contact her with any questions related to proposals or to research administration in general.

Electronic Research Administration

Electronic research administration (eRA) is the future for research administration. eRA encompasses everything from searching for funding opportunities to submitting proposals electronically to tracking their progress.

Currently, some federal agencies (including the National Science Foundation and Department of Defense) and other sponsors have mandated the electronic submission of proposals. The number of federal agencies requiring electronic submission is expected to increase in the next few years as a result of a congressional mandate requiring agencies to move from paper to electronic systems. Non-federal organizations also continue to move toward electronic systems in an effort to streamline the proposal process.

In response to these changes, and as the University of Illinois strives to streamline the administration of sponsored projects and the submission of electronic proposals, the University has chosen the InfoEd software suite to administer its pre-award eRA system. The project to deploy the pre-award system to the University community has been named UI eRA, and it has several distinct modules and phases.

Proposal Tracking (PT)

Proposal Tracking allows users to monitor information pertaining to proposals and awards that are

processed through the central sponsored projects office on each campus. PT is currently operational in the central grants offices on all three campuses. In addition, some units are piloting the product.

Proposal Development (PD)

Proposal Development is a front-end module that feeds pre-award information into the Proposal Tracking module. Combined with SPINPlus (described below), PD offers users a fully integrated method of searching for funding, creating a proposal, and routing it electronically for internal approvals. A phased rollout of the PD module, and many of the features of the PT module, to the University community is tentatively scheduled for July 1, 2006.

The UI eRA system also provides access to SPINPlus, which includes:

SPIN -- a funding opportunities database designed to provide up-to-date information on current national and international government and private funding sources. A funding opportunity selected from SPIN will automatically populate some of the data fields in the Proposal Development module.

GENIUS -- a global web network and database of scientific and scholarly expertise. The system contains profiles entered and maintained by scholars and researchers at universities and research institutions throughout the world.

SMARTS -- an electronic matching and funding opportunity notification system which provides investigators with a direct and targeted electronic link to comprehensive, current, and available funding information.

UI eRA, in its final form, will include the following

- Electronic routing for internal approval(s)
- Electronic storage of proposals
- Electronic submission (where possible)
- Electronic storage of award information
- User access to information, including proposal status
- In most cases, one-time budget entry with a seamless interface to post award accounting in Banner
- Automatic form development for many agency required forms
- Ability for users to develop and run their own reports, plus access to canned reports

As the project progresses, more information will appear on the UI eRA website, which is linked from the Grants & Contracts web site (www.uis.edu/grants). We encourage anyone interested in electronic research administration to visit the site, and to sign up for Announcements through the News Service link on the main UI eRA project page. On the subscription page, please check the box for UIeRA. If you have previously subscribed to the news service by choosing "Select All" you will still need to subscribe to this new site by checking the UIeRA box.

Illinois Researchers Information Service (IRIS)

IRIS is a comprehensive, web-based search mechanism for sponsored project funding sources. All UIS faculty and staff have access to this service from their office computers. Funding opportunities are updated frequently, and notices can be forwarded to you automatically by signing up for IRIS' Alert Service.

IRIS is continuously adding features and making improvements to existing features. It is located at www.library.uiuc.edu/iris/. Please contact the Grants and Contracts Office if you need assistance with IRIS or encounter any problems accessing the system.

Access to Additional Online Databases

The Nonprofit Resource Center in Brookens Library now offers campus-wide, online access to two searchable databases:

Foundation Directory Online
<http://fconline.fdncenter.org/welcome.php?fpc>

Illinois Funding Source
<http://ifs.donorsforum.org/>

These operate by IP recognition, and can be accessed from anywhere on the UIS campus.

The Nonprofit Resource Center provides a variety of services to the campus community. For further information, contact Pamela Salela at 206-6633.

Fringe Benefit and Indirect Cost Rates

The FY06 fringe benefit rates for faculty and staff salaries are still being calculated. The updated rates will be posted to the Grants and Contracts website as soon as they are known. Please contact Deb Koua if you need an estimated rate. Student salaries and wages should be charged .30% for workmen's compensation only.

All proposals to federal agencies should include an indirect cost calculation of 64% of salaries and wages.

Many state agencies and not-for-profit organizations have their own restrictions on indirect cost rates. Please contact the Grants and Contracts Office for assistance in applying the correct rate to your proposal.

Changes in rates are posted to the Grants and Contracts website at www.uis.edu/grants. As a reminder, most forms used by the Grants and Contracts Office and by Grants Accounting can also be found on this page.

Support for Student Research

The Office of Student Life will once again offer financial support for graduate and undergraduate students conducting research. For more information, contact Student Life at 206-6665, or visit the Student Life web page.

Fulbright Awards

The traditional **Fulbright Scholar Program** sends 800 U.S. faculty and professionals abroad each year to over 140 countries. Grantees lecture and conduct research in a wide variety of academic and professional fields. Awards range from two months to an academic year. While foreign language skills are needed in some countries, most lecturing assignments are in English. The official deadline was August 1, but some opportunities for the 2006-2007 academic year are still available. Please check the CIES webpage for available grants and consult the program officer before applying.

A relatively new initiative, the **Senior Specialists Program**, offers grants from two to six weeks. They provide an opportunity to collaborate with overseas counterparts on projects such as needs assessments, training programs, and curriculum development. Interested faculty can enroll online, and Fulbright staff will attempt to match you with an overseas host institution seeking an expert in your field. This program has a rolling deadline.

See www.cies.org for award descriptions and application materials.