Knowledge Enterprise Development

OKED Bulletin

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OKED: asuresearch.asu.edu

researchmatters.asu.edu
Dear Colleagues,

Since our last correspondence OKED has undergone a change in leadership. In early November, Dr. Rick Shangraw transitioned from OKED to assume leadership of the ASU Foundation. I am honored and delighted to be given the opportunity to work closely with all of our outstanding faculty, researchers and students to advance research, economic development, innovation and entrepreneurial activities.

We have also expanded our leadership team to include Dr. Neal Lester. In his new role of associate vice president, Dr. Lester will be responsible for advancing humanities research and will direct the expansion of Project Humanities beyond the borders of ASU.

I am also pleased that Dr. Kenneth H. Buetow, a human geneticist and former director of the Center for Biomedical Informatics and Information Technology at the National Cancer Institute, has joined ASU as director of computational sciences and informatics in the Complex Adaptive Systems Initiative at ASU.

Due to your exceptional efforts, the research enterprise has continued to grow during this period of change. The enterprise submitted 1,104 proposals worth $692.4M and received 816 award obligations totaling $169.5M during the six months since our last RED Bulletin (September 2011 – February 2012). Submissions included large USAID proposals prepared by faculty in partnership with OKED. Two of the USAID proposals total over $45M and one preliminary proposal is for $25M. These proposals cover diverse topics including justice sector reform in Guatemala, alternative energy generation and distribution in India, and addressing emerging international development challenges.

There have also been notable faculty and student awards. Faculty awards include six prestigious NSF CAREER awards, two IEEE Fellowships, a Guggenheim Fellowship, an APS William James Fellow Award, a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, an invitation to join the National Academy of Sciences, and an invitation to join the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In addition, seven ASU faculty members were named Regents’ Professors in November. Exceptional student achievements include a student company in the Edson Student Entrepreneur Initiative being named “College Entrepreneur of the Year” by Entrepreneur Magazine. Additional Edson Initiative companies were named finalists in other entrepreneurial competitions.

Together we are dedicated to the goal of delivering excellent service and support to all faculty so that together we can advance research, innovation, entrepreneurial activities and economic development efforts at ASU.

We are implementing process improvements that ease burdens associated with research activities, developing and launching innovative and exciting entrepreneurial programs, engaging locally and nationally to help drive economic development, and building capacity to respond to and secure large-scale projects.

As we move forward into the next school year, we will continue to reach out and engage faculty through events such as New Faculty Orientation, workshops for research deans and center directors, and faculty-led research forums.

As always, we request your feedback to enable us to better respond to your needs and improve our operations. Please feel free to share your concerns, ideas, and comments.

Wishing you the best,

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Economic Development and Global Enterprise Updates

2012 Arizona Solar Summit Partnership
Economic Development and Global Enterprise (EDGE), LightWorks, and the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law partnered on the 2012 Arizona Solar Summit, an event that brings people and organizations together to advance the solar energy industry on a national and regional scale. The Summit series is building a network designed to address specific challenges that, if met, will propel Arizona to national prominence in the solar energy market. The first Solar Summit, in August 2011, had 120 attendees from more than 70 different companies. Representatives from more than 30 companies are actively involved in four working groups that are tasked with mobilizing ideas and resources and strengthening Arizona’s solar energy capabilities as a global innovator. The 2012 Solar Summit was held March 26-27. More information is available at http://solarsummit.wordpress.com/.

ASU Venture Catalyst
The Venture Catalyst at ASU helps diverse entrepreneurial ventures from ASU, Arizona and around the globe find the critical resources needed to succeed using its state-of-the-art venture services platform. Current activities of Venture Catalyst include supporting several faculty startups as well as working with its second cohort in the Rapid Startup School (RSuS). The RSuS is a 12-module “pracademic” program for understanding entrepreneurship aimed at post-doctoral researchers, graduate students and junior faculty. Each cohort has included at least 50 participants. More information is available at asuventurecatalyst.org.

Venture Catalyst is also preparing to launch Furnace, a new startup accelerator aimed at individuals starting companies based on ASU’s intellectual property. Furnace will operate in partnership with Arizona Technology Enterprises (AzTE) and will offer an intensive 6-month incubator program including startup funding, space in the ASU SkySong facility, and access to top mentors. Furnace will showcase the many discoveries developed in ASU research laboratories, with the intent that these technologies will form the basis for new high-potential startups.

The Edson Student Entrepreneur Initiative
Student teams selected each year for the Edson Initiative receive $20,000 in funding, office space at ASU SkySong, and mentorship and support from Venture Catalyst. Several companies participating in the Edson Initiative this year have received accolades. Three of the five finalists for the Entrepreneur Magazine “College Entrepreneur of the Year” award, including the winner (G3BOX), are companies currently participating in the Edson Initiative. This is the first year that an Edson Initiative company has won “College Entrepreneur of the Year,” which is a great achievement. Other successes include two companies being named finalists in Inc magazine’s “Coolest College Startups” competition, a finalist in the Dell Social Innovation competition and a finalist in the Mass Challenge competition. More information is available at http://studentventures.asu.edu/.
Research Operations Updates

Faculty Video
A new video, *Submitting a Research Proposal through ASU*, has recently been released by the Research Operations Team and can be found on the researchadmin.asu.edu website in the Faculty Toolbox. It discusses resources available and steps to take in developing and submitting research proposals. A companion “Awards” video will be released later this spring.

New NIH Salary Cap
The FY2012 Consolidated Appropriations Act that provides funding to NIH was signed into law on December 23, 2011. Included in this act is a reduction of the NIH salary cap to the Executive Level II level ($179,700). The salary limitation was included in the act despite strong advocacy against this measure by several universities, including ASU, and many professional organizations. This change will impact all new funding requests to NIH as well as continuing funding increments received after December 23, 2011.

Data Management Plan Workshop
In order to better support faculty in meeting NSF’s requirement for Data Management Plans, a workshop was hosted by Sean Dudley, manager of Research Technology Development, on January 12. The session was recorded and can be viewed at https://connect.asu.edu/p2dfyohkknf/. Copies of Phil Tarrant’s (GIOS) presentation and Mary Whelan’s (Library – Cyber Infrastructure Services) presentation are also available for review. Other online resources are listed below:

- DMP Tool - to get started creating plans select ASU, choose “new user,” and login using your ASU credentials. https://dmp.cdlib.org
- ASU Digital Repository (presented during the workshop by Mimmo Bonanni) - the place to store your final data, meta data, other project information and materials. http://repository.asu.edu/
- Research Administration DMP Resource Pages can be found at http://researchadmin.asu.edu/dmp

Research Facilities Updates

Web Page Updates
The web page for the Research Infrastructure and Facilities Group is being updated and will be online at the time of the grand opening of ISTB 4. The updated online material will contain useful information about research facilities at ASU with a focus on facilities that fall under OKED leadership. Information will include space planning and policies as well as the core facilities and research building pages for the ISTB buildings, Biodesign and MTW.

ISTB 4 Scheduled for May Opening
The grand opening of the newest and largest research building at ASU is less than two months away! The building is in the last phase of construction and there are ongoing activities associated with mechanical completion and commissioning of the building. A test of the emergency power was successfully completed on March 1 and more testing of the building systems is scheduled prior to hand-over and occupancy. ASU Capital Programs Management Group has done a great job keeping the project on schedule and within budget and their hard work is very much appreciated.
The National Science Foundation Surveys

The NSF FY2011 Survey of Science and Engineering Research Facilities Part 1: Research Space, and Part 2: Computing and Networking Capacity were completed this January. This is a major effort every two years during which research institutions volunteer data based on NSF research groups and definitions. The data collected by NSF is available for use by ASU and other institutions for decision and policy making.

Customer Satisfaction Surveys

Surveys for customer satisfaction of OKED facilities have been completed for some facilities and groups and this effort will continue. This feedback provides a way to understand what is working well and also identifies areas that can be targeted for improvement. We look forward to the continued participation of OKED building occupants on future surveys.

Facility Administrator Hired

Erik Halle was hired as Facilities Administrator. Erik is an architect with extensive experience as a project manager for ASU’s CPMG, and has the ability to design and build off-sea oil-drilling platforms. His in-depth and wide-ranging skills in facilities construction and management are a great asset for ASU’s research community.

Research Integrity and Compliance Updates

Financial Conflict of Interest Disclosure Process

In response to changes in the HHS regulations governing the disclosure and monitoring of financial conflicts of interest, ORIA has been working with a faculty advisory committee to recommend changes to the institutional oversight and monitoring plan for financial conflicts of interests. The changes are wide-ranging and will affect all principal investigators to a limited degree, with more noticeable demands to be implemented for PHS-funded investigators. Significant operational changes will include: a lower reporting threshold, mandatory training requirements, monitoring travel paid by non-university funding and public accessibility.

The report of the faculty advisory committee will be submitted for review by OKED leadership soon and released for piloting in late May 2012. ORIA will be anxious to hear your comments. The HHS announcement is available on their website at: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/coi/coi_faqs.htm. Comments should be sent to research.integrity@asu.edu.

Research Strategy Updates

Identifying Opportunities

The funding.asu.edu site is updated daily with ASU-relevant funding opportunities, collected from the web and representing an array of funding agencies. Faculty can sign up for RSS feeds that will deliver keyword-identified updates directly to their inboxes. In addition, RSG is responsible for identifying and posting all limited submission opportunities at funding.asu.edu. This spring, a standing panel approach to limited submissions was piloted. This helped to streamline the evaluation of limited submission proposals and RSG plans to convene a standing panel again in the fall semester. Panelists will serve for one academic year and provide reviews for all internal competitions. RSG encourages faculty interested in participating in this service opportunity to email ResearchStrategy@asu.edu for more details. This email can also be used to provide feedback regarding enhancement of the funding.asu.edu website.

Research Forums

RSG has conducted three research forums so far this year. In partnership with the Schools of Engineering, the ICorps forum presented an overview of this unique opportunity from the National Science Foundation for interested faculty. RSG also provided support to the ASU Foundation for a research forum that provided a valuable introduction to the Keck Foundation. Finally, RSG hosted a webinar that featured presentations by representatives from key funding agencies, such as NSF, about agency budget priorities for the coming year.
Providing Intelligence
RSG has proactively reviewed President Obama’s Budget Request for FY2013. In keeping with its mission, RSG is monitoring Appropriations Committee activities to ascertain the direction of research funding allocation. Concurrent to this activity, RSG regularly completes in-depth presentations on the National Institutes of Health, Department of Energy and the Department of Defense. These presentations are available by request be emailing ResearchStrategy@asu.edu.

Supporting Proposal Development
Working with research advancement staff at the department level and within OKED, RSG staff provided coordination and editorial support for six high-impact, high-profile proposals, with a total requested budget of nearly $100M. This collaborative engagement between staff and faculty resulted in the production and release of the “ASU Proposal Manual” and the “Research Advancement Strategic Initiative Manual,” which will facilitate the submission of high-profile proposals. In an effort to support early identification and provide critical support for these types of proposals, RSG has evaluated several “proposal pipeline” tools. RSG plans to release a highly effective tool that satisfies the requirements of a burgeoning research enterprise in the near future.

Communications and Media Relations Updates

“Why does research matter?”
The OKED communications team aims to answer that question by highlighting ASU’s research achievements and impact. Through the Research Matters campaign, OKED is chronicling research through stories and videos, while highlighting the people behind it. Pitch your own story ideas to Diane Boudreau, OKED editor or Patrick Cheung, director of creative services. Join the conversation about research at ASU on Facebook and Twitter.

Discovery Café
In March, OKED launched the Discovery Café, a series of public discussions with experts from a variety of disciplines. The first café featured a presentation about the impact of food environment on food choice with ASU nutrition professor Dr. Christopher Wharton. The next café is tentatively planned for August. If you would like to stay updated about these events, please contact oked.communications@gmail.com.