
[HHS Staff] Updates from The HHS Office of Research

1 message

Esther Leerkes <emleerke@uncg.edu>
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To: hhs-faculty-l@uncg.edu, hhs-staff-l@uncg.edu

Thu, Apr 14, 2022 at 8:52 AM

Dear Colleagues,

The following topics are addressed in this email:

1. Hannah Hawks' (post-award research administrator) last day is 4/22
2. Staff Transitions in the Office of Sponsored Programs and the Office of Contracts and Grants
3. Revised Policy Faculty Effort on Grants
4. Publication Vouchers
5. Looking Ahead: Forthcoming NIH requirements regarding Data Management Policies
6. Upcoming events

Please note, I will be out of the office from April 18 to 22. If you need immediate assistance, please reach out to Lisa Walker.

Best,

Esther

1. Hannah Hawks' (post-award research administrator) last day is 4/22

Hannah Hawks has accepted a new position at UNCG (accounting position in the Foundation Finance division of the Controller's Office). Hannah joined our office in 2019 and has been a tremendous asset. She quickly mastered her key tasks, created new processes such as emailing PIs monthly budget statements, and took a lead role in our efforts to create an Effective PI Canvas Course that was launched in January. During her time in our office, Hannah began working on her MBA in the Bryan School of Business and is set to complete her degree in December. Hannah also welcomed daughter Addie to her family during her time in HHS. We are so proud of all Hannah has achieved. Although we will miss her tremendously, we take great comfort in knowing UNCG will continue to benefit from her talents. Please join me in a warm send off for Hannah!

Rest-assured, we will fill this position as soon as possible. The position description is currently being routed. We are no longer subject to dual approval for this type of position, so it should be posted soon. In the meantime, Assistant Dean Lisa Walker will be the primary contact for post award issues. She served in this role temporarily following Diane Levine's retirement as well, so we are in good hands. Special thanks to Lisa for taking this on!

2. Staff Transitions in the Office of Sponsored Programs and the Office of Contracts and Grants

There have been a number of staff transitions in the Office of Sponsored Programs and the Office of Contracts and Grants that I want to bring to your attention as they affect who faculty will communicate with regarding submissions and awards and may also affect workflow. The following individuals in OSP have left the university for employment elsewhere: Dr. Aubrey Turner (former Grant Development Specialist); Tamara Adams (former Grants/ Budget Specialist); and Angela Boseman (Grant Specialist assigned to HHS). In addition, Dr. Valera Francis, the Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs, will be retiring. Her last day on campus will be 4/20. Tiffany Wright is the new Grant Specialist focused on budget reviews pre-submission so she is handling tasks formerly handled by Tamara Adams. The other positions are vacant and will be filled as soon as possible. In the interim, Dr. Kimberly Littlefield, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement will serve as the Interim Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs and as the Interim Grant Specialist for HHS (Angela Boseman's former duties). HHS OOR staff met with Dr. Littlefield earlier this week to discuss how we will work together during this transitory period and a good plan is in place.

In addition, Rachel Simon has left Contracts and Grants. Although Rachel was not assigned to any departments in HHS, this may affect us as our assigned specialists, Rhonda Florence and Thomas Langland will be covering additional departments until the position is filled. In addition, Contracts and Grants was already understaffed relative to the past given hiring freezes earlier this academic year.

There is a nationwide shortage of research administration professionals, which is largely responsible for the number of transitions described above, and may also contribute to delays in filling the vacant positions. Every possible action is being taken by our research administration to address this. In the meantime, there may be delays/slower response times than has been the case in the past. **Now more than ever, planning ahead and good communication will be important. I ask all HHS faculty for patience and grace during this transitory period.**

The [current contact list of OSP/C & G contacts by school/department is available here](#). You can locate this document easily at any time by searching OSP contact list on the UNCG website.

3. Revised Policy Faculty Effort on Grants

As stated in the March 22 email from Suzanne Ingram on behalf of Dean Mattacola, our [Guidelines for Determining Faculty Effort on Grants](#) has been modified to be consistent with our new [Policy on Course Buyouts](#). Both take effect in AY 22/23. The key change is that faculty must include a minimum of 12.5% of effort during the academic year in their grant budgets to be granted a course buyout. Reasons for possible exceptions and the process to request exceptions are detailed in the document. Previously approved buyouts are grandfathered in at whatever percent effort was agreed upon at the time of grant submission (i.e., based on the internal budget routed via RAMSeS or Cayuse). I am happy to discuss questions related to these guidelines.

4. Publication Vouchers

Journal fees have become increasingly expensive. Some journals charge Article Processing Charges (APCs) across the board, and some have hefty fees for the open access option. Did you know that UNCG has been working hard to reduce those costs?

Please see the summary below and [complete details here](#).

- Cambridge University Press - APC waivers (should be automatic if you submit using your uncg email account)
- Wiley - APC waivers (should be automatic if you submit using your uncg email account)
- IGI Global - APC waivers (can also be applied to OA book chapter processing charges; should be automatic if you submit using your uncg email account)
- SAGE - APC discount (10%) (email APCqueries@sagepub.co.uk when you are asked to arrange payment of the APC and provided requested information)
- MDPI - APC discount (10%) (select the discount upon submission of a manuscript, and use your UNCG email address so that your institutional affiliation can be confirmed)

Also, remember the [UNCG Open Access Publishing Fund \(OAPF\)](#) - Offers awards of up to \$1500 toward APC costs. Application required.

5. Looking Ahead: Forthcoming NIH requirements regarding Data Management Policies

NIH has issued a new [Final NIH Policy for Data Management and Sharing](#) (effective January 25, 2023), which will require NIH funded researchers to prospectively submit a plan outlining how scientific data from their research will be managed and shared. On January 25, 2023, the new policy will come into effect and replace the 2003 NIH Data Sharing Policy currently in effect. Information can be found on their main page: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/data_sharing/,

To help the research community prepare for implementation of the new policy, NIH also provides the following supplemental information: [Elements of an NIH Data Management and Sharing Plan](#), [Allowable Costs for Data Management and Sharing](#), and [Selecting a Repository for Data Resulting from NIH-Supported Research](#). Visit the page on [public access and open science](#) to learn more.

We will begin to gather resources to help investigators with this change over the summer. If you come across good resources, please share them.

6. Upcoming events

April 21, noon to 2 PM Join GROWTH for a Networking Lunch with community partners at the Old San Juan Bar and Grill.

RSVP [here](#).

April 20 - 22 – [Virtual Science Everywhere](#)

April 21, 2 to 4 PM [Banner Finance Contract & Grant Accounting Workshop](#)

April 22 1 to 2 PM – RISE Speaker Series: [Marcy Towns](#); public lecture "Driving forward learning in the laboratory with digital badges"

Location: This event will be both in person (UNCG Campus, Sullivan 101) and streamed via Zoom.

[RSVP link for Zoom](#) (No RSVP is needed for in-person attendance)

Description: One highlight this year will be the inaugural Dr. Steven Nils Ulosevich RISE Speaker Series lecture, which will be given by [Dr. Marcy Towns](#). She is the Bodner-Honig Professor of Chemistry in the Department of Chemistry at Purdue University and her research group uses a variety of qualitative and quantitative research methods to investigate the factors that affect how students learn chemistry. We want to thank the Ulosevich family for supporting this event. To learn more about Dr. Ulosevich's connection to UNCG, [click here](#). To view the welcome to this lecture series from the Ulosevich family, please see the video below.

April 27, 12 - 1 PM [P2 Information Session](#) (Virtual) -- The 2023 Community-Engaged Pathways and Partnerships (P2) Grant Call for Proposal is a grant-funded fellows program that aims to strengthen collective approaches to community-engaged scholarship through the development of sustainable pathways and partnerships that build deep, reciprocal processes to achieve mutually beneficial, community-identified priorities. The P2 applications are due September 30, 2022, but this provides teams with information to jumpstart the application process.

May 17, 10 - 11:30 [Mentoring Undergraduates in Research and Creative Inquiry](#) (Virtual) -- All engaged in facilitating undergraduate research are strongly encouraged to attend. This workshop will focus on the basics of research at the undergraduate level from the faculty perspective.

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Esther M. Leerkes, Ph.D. (she/her/hers: [What's this?](#))

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