
Updates from the HHS Office of Research

1 message

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

Fri, May 14, 2021 at 2:31 PM

Dear Colleagues,

The following topics are addressed in this email:

1. Be on the lookout for and please complete the Research Services Survey
2. Interview invitations to participate in HHS OOR Equity Audit will be forthcoming
3. Current status of Research Ramp Up
4. Updates on the status of the IRB system migration
5. Reminder: RAMSeS to Cayuse transition this summer
6. Phone related grant charges

I wish you all a happy summer. I will try to minimize email to the extent I can, but will continue to email critical research-related information as needed. Please do reach out if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions to share.

Best,

Esther

1. Be on the lookout for and please complete the Research Services Survey

In the coming week, all faculty should receive an email invitation from Interim Provost Terri Shelton to complete a survey about research-related services on campus. The primary goal is to evaluate existing central university services/offices related to research in an effort to identify areas for growth and improvement and to assess change since the last survey was administered in 2014. The survey is likely to also ask about unit level supports, which in our case refers to the HHS Office of Research. We believe these results will be useful to us as well. Thus, I strongly encourage all faculty who engage in research to take the time to complete this survey. You will have the opportunity to complete rating scales and to provide open ended feedback. You can also volunteer to participate in related focus groups this summer. As you know, we have a very active research/funding portfolio in HHS, so I hope our voices are well represented in the survey and focus groups.

2. Interview invitations to participate in HHS OOR Equity Audit will be forthcoming

We continue to make progress on this work. This summer, the qualitative interviews will begin. You will receive emails from Dr. Silvia Bettez inviting you to participate if you are a BIPOC faculty member, mentor of an early career BIPOC faculty member, or department chair. I am sorry these interviews are occurring outside of the academic year. To thank you for your time, we hope to provide a luncheon in the fall semester if permitted by COVID-related guidelines. Please note the collected data is anonymous, and we have agreed that no one from the Office of Research, including me, will have access to the interview transcripts. Dr. Bettez is an experienced qualitative researcher, and great care will be taken when summarizing/disseminating the results to ensure anonymity.

3. Current status of Research Ramp Up

CDC guidelines regarding COVID continue to evolve, and the state has not weighed in yet. The Research Ramp Up committee will be meeting this summer to discuss what the future may hold. Unless you hear otherwise, please note that Ramp Up Plans are still required as is prior approval for travel. If you need a reminder of current practices, please visit the Keep Researching site. I am so impressed by the ingenuity and care taken by HHS faculty, staff, and students to maintain safety of all involved. I know it has been a challenge.

4. Updates on the status of the IRB system migration

I am preparing another email focused exclusively on the transition from IRBIS to Cayuse Human Ethics to make sure all human subjects researchers understand the status of the migration and what steps we should take to ensure we have

long-term access to needed study information. I am confirming the contents of the message now and hope to send next week.

5. Reminder: RAMSeS to Cayuse transition this summer (shared in March email as well)

RAMSeS (Research Administration Management System and electronic Submission), the portal we have been using for the internal routing of external grants and contracts will be replaced by a new system called Cayuse. Yes, the same Cayuse noted above. One of the beauties of Cayuse is it is a single platform in which multiple research-related processes will be integrated—including routing of grants/contracts, IRB, and conflict of interest processes. Another benefit of Cayuse is it will communicate/work with ASSIST and Grants.gov. In other words, these application packages can be built in Cayuse and then directly submitted to some sponsors. So, although no platform is perfect, Cayuse has several clear advantages over RAMSeS. That said, I know change can be hard.

A few important facts to highlight:

- The current timeline indicates any applications that are started on or after July will need to be in Cayuse. If this shifts, we will alert you.
- Verna Leslie, our Pre-Award Administrator, has been an integral member of the campus wide working group testing Cayuse and planning for implementation--so we are in VERY good hands, as always, during this transition.
- Cayuse was created by the same group who created RAMSeS, so the platform is similar in many ways. Those involved in the working group suggest it will look very familiar to us.
- Verna will continue to enter most application information into Cayuse, as she has done for RAMSeS, so the felt impact of this on HHS PIs will likely be minimal.
- The Office of Sponsored Programs will prepare/disseminate training materials.
- When I have the needed information, I will create an abbreviated instruction document for Department Chairs who are tasked with reviewing and approving grants/contracts before they are submitted.

Stay tuned for more information!

6. Phone related grant charges

We all know phone services transitioned to Microsoft Teams recently. Bill Walters, Contracts and Grants, stated grants will be charged for phone services through June. After that, there should be no charges for US calls. There will be charges for international calls if made via Teams.

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Esther M. Leerkes, Ph.D. (she/her/hers: What's this?)
Associate Dean for Research, School of Health and Human Sciences
Jefferson Pilot Excellence Professor, Human Development & Family Studies
UNC Greensboro
PO Box 26170
Greensboro, NC 27402-6170
Phone: (336) 256-0310; Fax: (336) 334-5089



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