
[HHS Staff] Updates from The HHS Office of Research

1 message

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To: hhs-faculty-l@uncg.edu, hhs-staff-l@uncg.edu

Thu, Jan 19, 2023 at 9:51 AM

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year! The following topics are addressed in this email.

1. Equity Audit Updates
2. Reminder: HHS Faculty Grant and Top Off Grant Applications Due Jan 23
3. Two critically important central research positions have been filled!
4. Resources for creating NIH Data Sharing and Management Plans (attachments)
5. Inquiry re involvement in Open Science Activities
6. **New** IT Procurement Policy
7. Upcoming deadlines & events

Wishing you a productive and positive semester.

Best,

Esther

1. Equity Audit Updates

We continue to make strides to address the themes that emerged from the HHS OOR Equity Audit. Lisa Walker added a new tab to our webpage titled [Advancing Equity](#). This page includes links to all historical documents including the plan, all detailed reports, the executive and integrative summaries, and the action plan--each of which has been shared previously. In addition, we have included a document that we will continue to update that summarizes [actions taken to date](#).

2. Reminder: HHS Faculty Grant and Top Off Grant Applications Due Jan 23

The deadline to submit HHS Faculty Research Grants and Top Off grants is Monday, January 23 at 5 PM. [Further information is available here](#). Applications must be submitted via InfoReady.

3. Two critically important central research positions have been filled

I am delighted to report that two critically important central research positions have been filled.

The new director of the Office of Sponsored Programs will be Joy Dismukes. Joy brings over a decade of relevant experience in grant/contract submission and post award processes at Case Western Reserve University. We were involved in the interview process, and Lisa, Verna, April and I were uniformly impressed by our interactions with Joy. Joy will begin to work remotely on 1/23 and from campus on 2/1. There will be a transition period as Joy becomes familiar with our policies, procedures, and platforms. When the opportunity arises, please join us in giving her a very warm welcome to UNCG!

Melissa Skillings will be the new Director of the Office of Research Integrity. Melissa holds a JD and has a great deal of experience with compliance as it pertains to scholarships and financial aid and is currently employed by UNCG as the Director of Scholarships. She is eager to become an expert in human research ethics and a strong training/transition plan is in place. Please recall there is a shortage of human research ethics personnel nationwide, and many of us encouraged looking for strong candidates with a parallel set of needed skills/competencies. I am confident this is the best path for UNCG and can't wait to work with Melissa. This will bring much needed relief to the IRB backlog that has been a challenge this AY.

I will continue to update you about research-related personnel changes as they evolve.

4. Resources for creating NIH Data Sharing and Management Plans (attachments)

As shared previously, NIH's new policy on Data Sharing and Management goes into effect for proposals submitted on or after January 25. The video for the [UNCG Town Hall about this policy is available here](#). A list of web-resources is attached as are directions on how to access and use one generalist repository that is currently free to UNCG personnel and pretty easy to use. A page within the PI toolkit/OSP [website](#) dedicated to this topic is under construction now. Some documents are available there now and we are working to enhance it. Our next step is to create a FAQ document for faculty. After familiarizing yourself with the policy, please note any [questions you wish us to address here](#).

5. Inquiry re involvement in Open Science Activities

I believe a primary goal of the new NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy is to promote open science more broadly which includes broader/more accessible dissemination of data, results, tools etc, greater transparency, and fostering reproducibility. I suspect while many of us value these goals, we may not have received training in how to do so, and time constraints make independent learning a particular challenge right now. I am considering sponsoring some brown bag sessions or mini workshops related to some of these topics. As a first step, I am trying to determine if we have internal folks with prior experience in pre-registering their studies/hypotheses or publicly sharing data/code or other tools via repositories or platforms made available by journals and professional organizations or via their own websites. If you or your staff/students have relevant experience(s), [please take a moment to complete this form](#) and I will follow up.

6. New IT Procurement Policy

Donna Heath met with us at a University RAC meeting this week to describe the new [IT Procurement Policy](#) that went into effect on 1/15/23. My basic understanding is that moving forward all software purchases must be pre-approved by IT and hardware costing \$5,000 or more must be pre-approved by IT. A list of currently [available/approved software is available here](#). In addition, all software and hardware must be inventoried/reported annually. I believe that process is occurring now at the department level. There will be occasional, random audits to ensure compliance with the policy. I am sure there are many specialized software and hardware needs related to research. Please be sure to share this information with project managers and other research personnel and be sure to act according to the policy. The overarching goal is to make sure we are not compromising data security by virtue of software or hardware being added to UNCG computer assets.

7. Upcoming Deadlines & Events

Deadlines

- o [HHS Faculty Research Grant](#) applications due **January 23, 2023 at 5 pm**. Up to \$5,000 for individual investigator awards and up to \$10,000 for collaborative projects from April 2023 through June 2024. All full-time faculty whose workloads include research are eligible.
- o [HHS Top-Off Funding](#) applications due **January 23, 2023 at 5 pm**. For individuals or teams who were recently awarded New, Regular, or HHS Faculty grants to enhance existing projects in some way. Funds may not exceed the initial award amount. Available funds are limited so requests should be limited to essential costs and must primarily be expended within the fiscal year (i.e., by May 2023).

Please note, given we know there have been many COVID-related delays and disruptions to active research in the last few years, we are extending the Top Off Grants. That is, we are inviting Top Off Grants for applications (Regular or New Faculty, Faculty First, or P2 Grants) that were originally submitted between Fall 2020 and this year--essentially we are expanding eligibility by one year.
- o [UNCG Internal Funding/Faculty First](#) applications will be due **February 6, 2023 at 5 PM**. [Additional details available here](#). *Please see related workshop scheduled for next Monday below.*
- o [Undergraduate Research and Creativity Award \(URCA\)](#) Funds help faculty and students partner in meaningful projects in their discipline/field of study. Support can be used for material expenses and/or related travel, or can be used to provide a stipend for the students. Students can earn up to \$3,000 (annually) for their work. Faculty can request up to \$500 in support of the project.

Applications due:
For Summer 2023 – **February 12, 2023**
Fall/Spring 2023/2024 – April 16, 2023
- o [HHS Summer Grant Writing Fellows Program](#) supports faculty in their efforts to submit strong grant proposals. Fellows must identify a mentor, attend a series of summer workshops, and agree to submitting a grant within the following year. Fellows may receive a \$4,000 summer stipend. Upon successful grant submission within a year, they

may receive an additional \$1,000 award and their mentors may receive a \$500 award. Applications through InfoReady for summer 2023 are due **February 27, 2023 by 5:00 p.m.**

Upcoming Events

Mon January 23, 1 to 2:30 PM [Workshop on UNCG Internal Research Awards](#) (formerly Faculty First)

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2 attachments

 **DMSP Website Resources.docx**
15K

 **Instructions for Using the UNC Dataverse as a Repository.docx**
21K