UC BERKELEY

The Seven Deadly Sins
Proposal Development

October 16, 2014
After all...

What Can Go Wrong?

- X-PI Status
- Cost Sharing
- Administrative Salaries
- F&A
- Sub-awards
- Collaborations
- Problematic Terms
Topic: Exceptional PI Status

**Presenters**

Angela Ford
Sponsored Projects Office

Matthew Andrews
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research

Donna Dahrouge
Campus Shared Services, Team 3, Pre-Award
School of Public Health
Objectives & Outline

• Objectives
  – Describe exceptional PI status
  – Understand when, why, how to request exceptional PI status

• Outline
  – Definitions
  – Proposal stage processes
  – Award stage
Why is PI status important

• Proposals for extramural support of research, training or public service projects may be submitted only by eligible Berkeley campus appointees who have primary responsibility for design, execution, and management of the project, who will be involved in the project in a significant manner, and who will serve on a research project as Principal Investigator or on a training or public service project as Project Director.
Which appointment title does not have automatic PI status?

- Associate Nutritionist, Agricultural Experimental Station
- Associate Cooperative Extension Specialist
- Project Scientist
- University Librarian
- Adjunct Assistant Professor
Eligibility for Submission of Proposals

Eligibility through appointment:

• Members of the Academic Senate, including Emeriti
• Appointees in the Agronomist series, including Emeriti
• Appointees in the Adjunct Professor Series
• Appointees in the Continuing Education series at ranks VII or VIII (for continuing education programs only)
• Cooperative Extension Specialists
• Appointees in the Professional Research Series whose salaries are drawn from central campus funds
Eligibility (Cont.)

Eligibility through exception approved by the Chancellor or his delegated representative:

• Clinical Professors
• Appointees in the Professional Research series, funded from non-central campus, extra-mural, funds
• Project series
• Other appointees
What is Exceptional PI Status?

PI status granted to individuals, who are not eligible for PI status through appointment, for proposal submissions and execution of extramurally supported projects.

- **Project-specific** - PI status limited to a specific project
- **Continuing** - ongoing PI status, granted in rare cases and remains in effect until revoked by the requesting department or unit
Proposal Stage Process

• Department Process
  – Division/unit has unique process
  – SPH: Dean approval required before proposal can be submitted to SPO

• VCRO Process
  – Submit required materials (with proper authorizations) through online system
  – Review and decision

• SPO Process
  - Check Phoebe proposal data
    - Special Review Tab and Attachments & Notes Tab
Phoebe - Special Review Tab
Phoebe - Attachments and Notes Tab
Award Stage Process

VCR approval required prior to award set up
SAMPLE - Individual

October 9, 2014

DIRECTOR CHARLES MARSHALL
UC Museum of Paleontology

Dear Director Marshall:

I am pleased to approve Exceptional Principal Investigator Status for Academic Coordinator Dr. XXXXXXXX for the NSF proposal entitled “Collaborative Research: XXXXXXXXX” for the period June 1, 2015 through May 31, 2019.

Sincerely,

Robert Price
Associate Vice Chancellor for Research

cc: Sponsored Projects Office
Jacqueline Fitzpatrick, Campus Shared Services

Individual project approval
Continuing approval

DEAN G. STEVEN MARTIN
Biological Sciences Division

July 28, 2014

Dear Dean Martin:

I am pleased to approve Continuing Exceptional Principal Investigator Status for Assistant Researcher and Academic Coordinator Dr. XXXXX in the [program XXXX] effective immediately.

In accordance with the Campus Policy on Eligibility for the Submission of Extramural Support Proposals and Procedures for Obtaining Exceptions dated March 20, 2007, continuing status will remain in effect until revoked by the requesting unit.

Sincerely,

Robert Price
Associate Vice Chancellor for Research

cc: Sponsored Projects Office
Further info:

Principal Investigator Status:
http://vcresearch.berkeley.edu/research-policies/principal-investigator-status
Topic: Cost Sharing

**Presenters**
Ruchika Dhussa, Contract and Grant Officer
Sponsored Projects Office

Morgan Darby
Biosciences CSS Research Administrator Team Lead, Team 4
Cost Sharing

Goals

1. What does the CSS or Department Research Administrator need from the PI?

2. What does SPO need from RA?

What is cost-sharing?

The contribution of quantifiable resources to a sponsored project beyond the amount funded by the sponsor.
Types of Cost Share

1. Mandatory
   - Described in the application guidelines.
   - If silent or “encouraged,” then not mandatory.

2. Voluntary
   - Sponsor does not state that cost sharing is required.
   - Applicant describes quantifiable resources it will contribute.
     a. Committed
        - Quantified in a submitted proposal to a sponsor.
        - May be fiscally or programmatically auditable.
     b. Uncommitted
        - Not included in proposal budget or narrative.
        - Effort or resources contributed beyond that which is committed to and budgeted for in the sponsored agreement.
Sources of Cost Share

1. From the University

A. Cash
   - Computed value of effort that University-paid personnel expend without reimbursement from sponsor.
   - Monies from University funds to pay for direct costs.

B. F&A
   - Contributed F&A is associated with cash contributions.
   - Waived F&A is the difference between the full federally negotiated F&A rate and the actual F&A rate.

*Caveat: Not all sponsors allow waived F&A to be counted toward mandatory cost share obligations.*

2. From a Third Party
What does the RA need from the professor?

For voluntary committed cost share in the form of a professor’s academic year effort ...

1. Email confirmation from the professor. Chair’s approval is given with Phoebe approval.

For other quantified cost share included in the proposal budget or narrative ...

1. A detailed budget, which allows SPO to review and approve any associated F&A being used as cost share.

2. A letter from the appropriate person authorizing the use of University resources (e.g., Dean, VCR, EVCP) or third party resources (e.g., foundation).
Phoebe: Step 1

If your proposal includes cost sharing, select yes on the Questions tab!

- Document was successfully reloaded.

Will this project involve any of the following potential compliance issues?

- Travel outside the U.S with scientific or technical equipment
- Shipping of equipment, materials, or software outside the U.S.
- Radioactive isotopes, recombinant DNA, or lasers
- Stem cell research
- Nuclear fuel cycle research
- SCUBA or small boats
- Custom antibodies

Is cost sharing included as part of this proposal? If yes, attach supporting documentation in the Attachments panel.

- Yes  
- No
Phoebe: Step 2
Upload cost sharing documentation on the Attachments page.
Voluntary Committed Cost Share

Professor C.O. d’Artagnan states in his budget justification:

No salary is requested for Dr. d’Artagnan, who will devote 10% effort to overseeing the project and directing and training Drs. Athos and Porthos as well as Ms. Aramis.

RA should:

1. Confirm professor’s effort on sponsored projects combined with other University responsibilities will not exceed 1 FTE if project is funded.

2. Select “yes” under cost sharing on the Questions tab in Phoebe!

In review comments, SPO will provide an explanation of this type of cost share, and request confirmation from the PI on how she or he wishes to proceed.
Other sources of cost-share

- University “cash” contribution
- Third party or in-kind contribution
- Waived F&A
Takeaway message:

• Determine the type of cost-share (i.e., review the solicitation to see if it is required)
• Discuss the situation with the PI
• Obtain necessary documentation & include in Phoebe
• Communicate with your SPO CGO for assistance on proposal language or other questions
• Check out the SPO website for more information: http://www.spo.berkeley.edu/procedures/costsharing.html
Based on guidance from Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-21, “Cost Principles for Educational Institutions” the University of California, Berkeley does not charge administrative and clerical salaries and other administrative costs such as phone, copying, postage, memberships, and office supplies as direct costs to a sponsored project supported with federal funds. These costs are typically considered indirect costs covered by the University’s Facilities and Administrative (F&A) rate agreement.
Under A-21

One Exception:

Circular A-21 allows administrative/clerical salaries to be charged directly to federal grants, contracts, and other agreements when the expense is in support of a “major project”—defined as one that requires extensive administrative or clerical support that is significantly greater than the level of such services routinely provided by the department.
Under A-81

Uniform Guidance has changed the treatment of certain costs as allowable direct charges to Federal Awards. The changes in the UG have provided more flexibility in charging a number of costs items than previous Federal guidance, but certain items of cost are now more restrictive than current Federal rules.
Under A-81

Draft UCOP Policy:
In general, administrative and clerical salaries should still not be direct charged, but the rules governing “major project or activity” exceptions have been dropped and replaced by the following criteria, all of which must be met:

• Administrative or clerical services are integral to a project or activity;
• Individuals involved can be specifically identified with the project or activity;
• Such costs are explicitly included in the budget or have the prior written approval of the Federal awarding agency; and
• The costs are not also recovered as indirect costs.

If all of these requirements are met, PIs/departments should add a new justification statement to proposals to facilitate the required agency approval.
So, What Does This Mean?

Stay tuned…
F&A in 7 (or maybe less)
ot-so-so-deadly-minutes

Presenters:
Amanda Janish
Research Administrator
CSS RA, Team 9

Jennifer Ng
Contract & Grant Officer
Sponsored Projects Office
What is F&A?

As defined by A-21:

• Facilities and administrative (F&A) costs [...] means costs that are incurred for common or joint objectives and, therefore, cannot be identified readily and specifically with a particular sponsored project, an instructional activity, or any other institutional activity.

• "Facilities" is defined as depreciation and use allowances, interest on debt associated with certain buildings, equipment and capital improvements, operation and maintenance expenses, and library expenses.

• "Administration" is defined as general administration and general expenses, departmental administration, sponsored projects administration, student administration and services, and all other types of expenditures not listed specifically under one of the subcategories of Facilities (including cross allocations from other pools).

Aliases: F&A, Indirect Costs (IDC), Overhead
Location of the F&A Rate Agreement:

SPO’s website:  
http://spo.berkeley.edu/policy/fa.html

You can also find facilities and administration rate components on the website, if you are interested.

Space and Capital Resources’s website:  
http://scr.berkeley.edu/costingpolicies

The website has information on past negotiated rates, flowcharts, FAQ’s and a lot more relating to F&A and composite fringe benefit rates.
Items of interest:

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES RATE AGREEMENT

EIN:

ORGANIZATION:
University of California (UCB)
Office of President
111 Franklin St., 10th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607-5200

DATE: 08/08/2014

FILING REF.: The preceding agreement was dated 08/12/2013
Items of interest (cont.)

If two rates are in effect during your budget period, you must budget accordingly:
- Example: 4/1/15 to 3/31/16 -- Budget 3 months at 56.5% and 9 months at 57%
- For proposals, use 57% for 07/01/16 and beyond

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**APPLICABLE TO**

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Org Res (1)
Org Res (1)
Org Res (1)
Instruction
Instruction
Instruction
Other Spons Act
Other Spons Act
Other Spons Act
Other Spons Act
SSL (2)
SSL (2)
SSL (2)
SSL (2)
IPAA (3)

**Org Res** - research
**Other Spons Act** - anything non-research
**SSL** - only used for Space Sciences Laboratory research projects

**Rarely used:**
Instruction
**IPAA** - Intergovernmental Personnel Act Agreement
Additional info:

Cognizant Agency: DHHS

Cognizant Federal Audit Agency Contact:
   Tom Lin, Audit Manager
   HHS Office of Inspector General, Office of Audit Services
   90 - 7th Street, Suite 3650
   San Francisco, CA 94103

Link: http://www.spo.berkeley.edu/guide/propinfo.html
On/Off campus

On-Campus
● PI doing research in a lab

Off-Campus
● Office rent charged to project
Off Campus in Phoebe

Will this project involve any of the following potential space issues?

- Off-campus project
- New or newly renovated space
- Research on, and/or modification to, existing Berkeley campus grounds or buildings

Yes

Is this an off-campus project? If yes, attach supporting documentation in the Attachments panel.

Yes

Please provide the location.

PI has office space at 1950 Addison Street in Berkeley. Off-campus IDC rate of 25% is used.
Different types of F&A

Federally Negotiated

Sponsor Policy

Vital Interest
Federally Negotiated

Federally negotiated rate is used if the sponsor doesn’t have an IDC policy in place, even if the sponsor is non-federal.
Sponsor Policy

Need to provide SPO with Sponsor Policy at time of proposal submission

Justification
● Published policy (website, RFP, etc.)
● Letter from Sponsor, on letterhead
● Be sure that the IDC base is clearly explained
Sponsor Policy in Phoebe

- Upload supporting documentation as an Attachment in Phoebe.
- Attachment type - Non-Standard Facilities & Administration (F&A) Rate Justification

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Sponsor Policy in Phoebe (cont.)

Berkeley Chart of Accounts

Budget

Total amount requested: $768,757

Work for this project will be conducted: On Campus

IDC Rate: Sponsor's rate of 15 %
Vital Interest

- Situations appropriate for a vital program waiver may include, but are not limited to:
  - Small seed grants which may attract future larger awards;
  - Cases of hardship for a new investigator;
  - Awards which include contributions of equipment or building renovation funds;
  - Awards for a community relations interest vital to the campus;
  - Supplements for a student services activity which the campus must provide;
  - Supplements for library holdings or public exhibits.

Submission of a vital interest requires approval by the AVCR and UCOP. If the vital interest request is not approved, the appropriate rate must be applied to the project.

Please note: When submitting to a foreign governmental sponsor, only a vital program waiver can be submitted to waive indirect costs. A foreign governmental sponsor's policy will not be accepted.
Things to do in Phoebe for Vital Interest

- Upload signed letter in Attachments → Non-standard Facilities & Administration (F&A) rate justification

- Financial Tab → IDC rate “Vital Interest requested” and input the rate
What’s the base?!

Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC)

Total Direct Cost (TDC)

Total Cost (TC)
MTDC

Modified total direct costs, consisting of all salaries and wages, fringe benefits, materials, supplies, services, travel and subgrants and subcontracts up to the first $25,000 of each subgrant or subcontract (regardless of the period covered by the subgrant or subcontract).

Exclusions: equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, student tuition remission, rental costs of off-site facilities, scholarships, and fellowships as well as the portion of each subgrant and subcontract in excess of $25,000

How to calculate indirect costs?
MTDC base = total direct costs – exclusions (as defined above)
Indirect costs = rate * MTDC base
TDC

Total direct costs are all direct costs charged on the project.

Exclusions: as defined by the Sponsor.

How to calculate indirect costs?
TDC base = TDC – exclusions (if any)
Indirect costs = TDC base * rate
Total direct costs and indirect costs

How to calculate indirect costs?

\[
\frac{100 \times \text{rate}}{100 - \text{rate}} = x \%
\]

Indirect costs = TDC \times x\%

x is a new percentage used to calculate IDC easier
TDC vs TC

Scenario 1: Sponsor policy of 10% TDC

\[
\text{TDC} = 100,000
\]
\[
\text{IDC} = 100,000 \times 10\% = 10,000
\]

Total project costs: $110,000

Scenario 2: Sponsor policy of 10% TC

\[
\frac{100 \times 10}{(100-10)} = \frac{1000}{90} = 11.11\% \text{ TDC rate}
\]
\[
\text{TC} = 110,000
\]
\[
\text{IDC} = 110,000 \times 10\% = 11,000
\]
\[
\text{TDC} = 110,000 - 11,000 = 99,000
\]

Check: $99,000 \times 11.11\% = 11,000
F&A on Subs

- Non-UC Subrecipients
  - MTDC -- IDC charged on the first $25,000 for each subaward
  - TDC -- IDC is charged on full subaward amount
  - TC -- IDC is charged on full subaward amount

- Other UC Campuses
  - No IDC charged at UCB, regardless of base

- LBNL
  - treated like Non-UC Subrecipient
Collaborations of Doom

Presenters
Paul S. Martinez
Sponsored Projects Office

Hannah Holloway, Contracts & Grants Team Lead, Campus Shared Services - Service Team 9
Collaborations: Warm and Fuzzy?

- Higher Impact Publications
- Future
- Ability to Bring More Experience
- Deeper Research
- Criticism
- Less Work
- Funding Opportunities
Collaborations: Evil?

- Foreign Collaborators
- Budget/Costs
- Timing/Synchronized Submissions
- Commitments/Cost Share
- Upfront Contractual Terms
- LOIs/MOUss/LOCs
- Representations and Certifications
Importance of a Collaboration Letter:

Researchers often collaborate on research or share research tools with other scientists or institutions with or without receiving funding. For many collaborations, a written agreement or understanding is beneficial or necessary. Collaboration Letters set out expectations, terms, and requirements to protect the interests of the investigators and the participating organizations. Collaborations may also involve use of university property and space, faculty time, students, protocol for human and animal subjects that must be approved by university officials and compliance committees.
A Good Commitment Letter:

- Language - English
- Date
- Address - In most cases, the letter can be addressed to the PI
- Proposal Solicitation # and Title (if known)
- Funding Agency
- Intended and Overall Goal(s) of Collaboration
- Key Personnel Involved in Collaboration - (As applicable)
- Anticipated Period of Collaboration
- General Budget (including Overhead)
- Organizational and Individual Commitments to Project
- Authorized Signatory - MAKE SURE THE LETTER IS SIGNED!
Good Luck on a Successful Collaboration

“I’d collaborate with my clones, because I’m a team player who wants all the credit.”
Topic: Subawards

Presenters:
Artawood Chitamitara (Art)
Research Administrator
CSS Team 4

Joyce So
Contract and Grant Officer
Sponsored Projects Office
Working with Subawards at Proposal Stage
Department RAs

Artawood Chitamitara (Art)
Research Administrator, CSS Team 4
Working with (to-be) Subawards

- Communicate with your PI
  - Effective communication can get you all the information you need (subaward information (how many, who are they, budget amount))
  - Subaward PI and their RAs contact information (contact them immediately)
- You are the “lead” RA
- Plan ahead and organize
  - Checklist
    - Requirements by sponsor (Biosketches, Resume/CVs, Current & Pending, letters, etc.)
    - Requirements by UCB SPO (SPO’s website: www.spo.berkeley.edu)
      - Joyce will explain later in details on what SPO needs
  - Timeline (subaward)
Challenges

• Communication
  – Lack of response from your PI (and subawardee PI and RAs)
  – Time zone differences

• Time
  – Time management, balancing priorities (RA’s Dilemma)

• Understanding subawardee’s internal process
  – Many university’s SPO have 5 day review policy
  – Most large private companies require their Legal department (attorney) to sign Subrecipient Commitment Form

• Last minute surprises, craziness, time crunch
4 Cs to Successful Subaward Submission

✓ Calm
✓ Control
✓ Coordinate
✓ Complete
Subaward Review Process at Proposal Stage

Joyce So
Contract and Grant Officer, SPO
What does SPO need at the proposal stage when there is a Subaward?

- Subrecipient Commitment Form, Completed and Signed by Subawardee’s Authorized Official Representative
- Statement of Work with Clear Description of Work to be Performed
- Budget and Budget Justification
- Fair and Reasonable Cost Analysis and Sole Source Justification: Subawards under Contracts form (if the prime is a contract)
- Other Document as Required by the Sponsor (e.g. F&A Agreement, Special Subaward Cover Page, etc...)
What does SPO review?
Is the Organization Eligible to Serve as a Subawardee?

Please answer the following questions BEFORE completing the rest of the form.

☐ Yes  ☐ No  Is your organization presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from participation in any Federal department or Agency?

☐ Yes  ☐ No  Is your organization delinquent on repayment of any Federal debt including direct and guaranteed loans and other debt as defined in OMB Circular A-129, “Managing Federal Credit Programs”?

• If either of the two questions above are answered “Yes”, then
Subawards vs. Vendors

• It is very important to determine whether an entity is a subaward or a vendor at the proposal stage, but...how?

  Ask yourself the following questions:

1) Does the entity commonly provide these goods and/or services as part of their normal business operations?
2) Does the entity provide similar goods and/or services to other purchasers?
3) Does the entity compete with comparable entities to provide the same goods and/or services?
4) Are the goods and services being provided by the entity secondary to the central purpose of the project?
5) Is the entity’s work carried out according to the Prime’s specifications using standard operating procedures?

If any of the above questions is answered “yes”, the entity is a vendor!
• If in doubt, don’t wait! Contact your CGO.
If the subaward entity does not have a federally negotiated rate agreement and would like to include indirect costs in its budget, the following language is needed in the subaward budget and budget justification:

“An F&A (indirect costs) rate of _____ is requested. F&A recovery based on this rate will be conditional upon the establishment of an approved negotiated rate agreement with a cognizant U.S. federal agency or UC Berkeley, when applicable, prior to the establishment of the subagreement.”
Financial Conflict of Interest

• If the proposal is being submitted to PHS sponsor or non-profit sponsors that have adopted the PHS FCOI regulation, the following section must be completed.

If the subawardee does not have a PHS-compliant FCOI policy, PHS FCOI form from the subaward PI and anyone who meets the definition of an investigator must be provided prior to proposal submission.
Useful Resources

• Subrecipient Commitment Form Preparation Guidance: http://www.spo.berkeley.edu/forms/subaward/subrecipient_instructions.html

• Subaward Guide: http://www.spo.berkeley.edu/guide/subaward_guide.html
Troublesome Clauses

- Indemnification
- Governing Law
- Publication Restrictions
- Confidentiality
- Citizenship Restrictions
- Binding Arbitration
- Ownership of Inventions
- Warranties and Guarantees
- Termination

Success. Takes Time! & Determination
Indemnification

• Responsibility falls on UC Berkeley—regardless of who created the problem.
• The “scope” is too broad—not limited to performance under a specific contract.
• The Regents do not allow third party liability.
• This is rarely accepted and only by exception.
Governing Law

- Establishes which jurisdiction’s law will apply in interpreting the contract and resolving disputes.
- We prefer State of CA or to remain silent on this issue.
- Negotiation possible.
- If PI accepts this risk the Department will have to pay additional expenses to travel outside of California to resolve the problem.
Publication Restrictions

• Contrary to the mission of the University
• Students need data to publish theses and dissertations
• Undermines fundamental research exemption for export control
• Limited review and comment period can be accepted but otherwise a deal killer.
Confidentiality

- University cannot keep the proposal or award confidential because we are subject to the CA public records act.
  - Exceptions: Trade Secrets and Internal Pricing Data
  - Party claiming a “trade secret” must specifically identify this information.
Citizenship Restrictions

- Against UC Policy
- Foreign nationals make up a large portion of our faculty and student population.
- Not “fair” and not “feasible”
- Invalidates fundamental research exemption for export control purposes.
Binding Arbitration

• Accepting binding arbitration “up front” means we waive any future ability to appeal or bring suit in response to an arbitrators decision; our right to access courts, judge, jury is waived.

• The acceptance of binding arbitration may have financial consequences, which would be borne by the department.
Ownership of Inventions

- University does not do work for hire under a sponsored agreement.
- University patent policy requires us to retain ownership of any data or information first generated under the agreement.
- Sponsor may own deliverables but University retains right to use data and information associated with production of deliverables for academic and scholarly purposes (right to publish)
- IP should be distributed according to the applicable patent laws
Warranties and Guarantees

- University works on a “reasonable efforts” basis
- Research outcomes (by definition) cannot be guaranteed or predicted.
- Prefer representation over warranty.
A Termination **Clause** should provide for:

- Mutual **termination** for convenience.
- A reasonable advance notice period for **termination** (30 days notice, for example)
- Ability of institution to terminate upon sponsor’s failure to pay.
- Which provisions will “survive” **termination** (indemnification, IP, confidentiality, compliance issues, etc.)
- Allow for compensation of expenses incurred up to date of **termination**, as well as reimbursement of non-cancellable commitments.
Finally:
Allow SPO to do its Job.
We should speak with one voice—SPO’s
UC BERKELEY

The Result of Teamwork:

“Perfect” Proposal Development

October 16, 2014