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### 1. **OSP Training – Brown Bag for Research Administrators**

#### Brown Bag for Research Administrators

The next Brown Bag meeting will be held on Friday, September 14th at 25 Science Park. [Register for in-person or remote participation (Zoom) in TMS](https://subscribe.yale.edu/browse?search=OSP). Agenda items are still being determined and will be posted on the TMS registration page as soon as they are confirmed.

Visit the [OSP Brown Bag website](https://subscribe.yale.edu/browse?search=OSP) to view the August Brown Bag [PowerPoint presentation](https://subscribe.yale.edu/browse?search=OSP) or [video](https://subscribe.yale.edu/browse?search=OSP).

#### Collaboration with Departments

Survey results were very positive about Erlyn Neri’s presentation on Cost Transfer Tips and Reminders – thank you Erlyn! We recognize that a departments’ approach to issues comes from a different perspective than OSP. Based on the survey feedback, there was a lot of interest expressed in having more department presentations. To accomplish that, we need some department volunteers.

If you have an idea for a presentation, please let us know by emailing osp.trainings@yale.edu.
Brown Bag Survey: Zoom Feedback

Thank you to everyone who completed the Brown Bag Survey! We read all your comments and have made improvements and changes based on your feedback.

We wanted to address some of the survey comments about Zoom participation:

- **Please repeat the questions for the remote audience.**
  We have a giant “REPEAT QUESTION” flash card that is held up for the presenter to see when someone in the audience speaks. We are definitely working on this and hopefully getting better.

- **We didn’t have enough time to compose and send our questions via the Chat window.**
  Good point, we will allow more time for submitting questions at future meetings. And also feel free to submit any questions via the Brown Bag survey.

- **If the sound cuts out will I be able to hear what was said on the video?**
  That depends on why the sound is cutting out. Sometimes the audio degrades due to the internet transmission issues. If that is the case, then yes, you might be able to hear what you missed on the video. But if we are having audio issues in the presentation room, then no, the video won’t be any better.

- **There were audio issues at the beginning of the meeting. Why don’t you test the system before the meeting?**
  We apologize for the audio issues but there is definitely a learning curve with this process. We always allow 90 minutes for setup and everything IS working before the meeting starts. Audio issues occurred this time when remote participants unmuted their telephones or Zoom microphones. Getting this corrected took some time and we accidently muted the presenter in the process, but we learned a quicker way to fix the problem should it happen again.

- **Thank you for providing us with the ability to see the speakers and the presentation.**
  Yes, this is a great feature, but unfortunately this is a function of the equipment setup in the room, and not something we can control.

Overall, the Zoom participants are happy to have the option of attending remotely, mainly for convenience and saving on travel time. Many who attend remotely say that they’ll still attend in person from time-to-time to network and see their colleagues.

We’ll continue to learn and improve the remote participation experience and we appreciate your patience as we deal with the challenges of Zoom!
2  BEST WISHES TO CYNTHIA KANE

It is with mixed emotions that we share the news that Cynthia Kane has accepted a position as the Assistant Vice President of Research and Sponsored Programs at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA. Her last day with Yale will be September 14. Cynthia has been with Yale for over 10 years serving in various roles and has been instrumental in the growth and modernization of the research enterprise. She is an excellent resource for all of ORA as well as the department community - she will be greatly missed!! Please join us in congratulating her on the next big step of her professional journey!!

3  SPONSOR-RELATED UPDATES

3.1  DOJ GRANTS FINANCIAL GUIDE REVISION

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has made the following revisions to the DOJ Grants Financial Guide, effective August 2018.

Chapter 3.2: Period of Availability of Funds; Obligation of Funds, page 33. Revised language regarding Obligation of Funds: An obligation is a binding agreement made during a given period that requires payment by the non-Federal entity during the same or a future period. For example, if an order is placed for a piece of equipment to be purchased with award funds, the order is an obligation. See 2 C.F.R. § 200.71 (definition of “Obligations”).

Obligations must occur during the project period stated on the award document. An obligation occurs when there is a binding agreement, such as in a valid purchase order or requisition, that covers the cost of purchasing an authorized item on or after the begin date and up to the last day of the award period. See 2 C.F.R. § 200.309 (Period of Performance).

Chapter 3.2: Period of Availability of Funds; Financial Management Tip, page 33. Revised language regarding obtaining the awarding agency’s approval in advance, if an award recipient intends to obligate funds prior to the start of the project period.

Chapter 3.2: Period of Availability of Funds; Project Extension Guidelines, page 37. Revised and added language regarding No Cost Extensions:

Generally, the following shall apply to all grants and cooperative agreements:
• no more than one no-cost extension may be made to an award;
• a no-cost extension may not exceed 12 months;
• a no-cost extension may be made only if the period of performance has not expired;
• a no-cost extension may be made only for award recipients that have no significant performance or compliance issues;
• a no-cost extension may be made only if supported by a robust narrative justification establishing that the extension is for the benefit of the Federal government, and contains a plan and timeline for completion within the period of the no-cost extension;
• a no-cost extension may not be made merely for the benefit of the recipient or for the purpose of enabling the recipient to use unobligated balances; and
• any provisions of the DOJ Grants Financial Guide relating to no-cost extensions shall be complied with (e.g., a no-cost extension must be requested via a Grant Adjustment Notice (GAN) in the grant system of records at least 30 calendar days before the project end date).
• Extension of the liquidation period may be allowable for awards if approved by the awarding agency (this includes the OVC State Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program and State Victim Compensation Formula Grant Program).

Periods of Performance for Research, Evaluation, and Statistics Awards

Due to the nature of the work to be carried out by the recipient, the usual periods of performance may not routinely be appropriate for research, evaluation, and statistics awards. (For example, long-term research or data collection efforts require sufficient time for activities such as institutional review board and Office of Management and Budget reviews (as appropriate), staff training, field work, data collection and analysis, presentation of findings, archiving of data, and dissemination of findings.) Accordingly, a research, evaluation, or statistics award may exceed a 3-year initial period of performance (and/or a 5-year total period of performance, and more than two continuations awards), when appropriate under the particular circumstances of that project.

¹ Thank you to all who have contributed to this newsletter. Please direct questions or suggestions regarding newsletter content to Tracy Coston at osp.communications@yale.edu. To unsubscribe, visit https://subscribe.yale.edu/browse?search=OSP. For archived issues, visit OSP News & Updates archives.