

RAOR Forum

January 22, 2014

10:00 – 11:00 AM

Blount Hall – Ground Floor, Room A004

1534 White Avenue

Topic: Overview: UT-B and Y-12 Joint Faculty Programs

These are active programs that are growing exponentially.

UT-Battelle (Oak Ridge National Lab) has multiple Joint Faculty Agreements and the majority of them are here with us at UTK.

There is a “master agreement” on each side governing how the program will work and lays out the groundwork of the program.

Joint Faculty are “loaned employees”.

- ORNL employees loaned to UT are still considered ORNL employees. They are paid by ORNL.
- Vice versa, UT employees loaned to ORNL are still UT employees.

Governor’s Chairs have the opportunity to go with either organization. They can choose to be UT or ORNL employees. There are currently about 10 GCs that are UT employees and 2 that are ORNL employees.

UT-B / ORNL

- **JFO “appointees”**
 - TIP: Remember “O” is for “ORNL”; that means JFOs are ORNL employees coming to UT
 - JFOs are appointed to the University. Every college/department must go through their normal appointment process to get the Joint Faculty.
 - The applicant MUST accept and sign the offer.
- **JFU/JFA “appointees”**
 - “U” is for “University”; JFUs are UT employees that are going over to ORNL.
 - To ORNL, JFU = JFA. ORNL will refer to our JFUs as JFAs.
 - JFUs must go through the system in ORNL and be appointed.
 - UT OSP cannot accept an award on that person’s behalf unless they have an agreement in place with ORNL.

Y-12 “assignees”

- Both UT and Y-12 employees are referred to as “assignees”
- All Y-12 assignments at this time are zero dollar appointments

Sponsored Projects Accounting

Some of these processes for JFU/JFA projects can be fairly lengthy, including award side and billing side.

We are in need of a more streamlined process (we are trying!)

Timely processes can potentially resolve issues related to:

- Extensions
 - Sometimes it is assumed that existing agreements will continue on automatically. That is not the case. It once took us 7 months to get an award!
 - Please be proactive about getting extensions and incremental funding!
 - There is a system that alerts us that an award will be ending soon. We all need to work together and inform each other.
- Inflated cumulative billings/late billing
 - We cannot bill if there is no award
 - When 9/12 adjustments are not posted in a timely manner, it causes bills to look inflated and ORNL will question these charges.
- Lack of Incremental Funding – we cannot bill if there is no funding!
- Incurrence of Cost complications
 - ORNL does *not* backdate
 - If there is a time gap between the time an award ends and a new one is set up and work continues, you need to let OSP know so that we can get those costs covered
 - Incurrence of Costs bills *can* be rejected
- Incorrect accruals for ORNL AP processing
 - Our invoices are shown cumulatively while ORNL accrues on a monthly basis. This can sometimes cause problems if we are late to bill and several month's expenses are invoiced at once

Questions/Comments:

Q: When the faculty signs and returns the acceptance letter, where should that letter go?

A: It should be sent to the Provost. From there, it is sent to the distribution list which includes OSP, department head, etc.
Letters *are* kept on file so you can ask if you need a copy.

Q: Where should the JF submit their proposals? If it's a UT employee, when they submit a proposal, do they submit through UT-B DOE funding? Or UT TERA PAMS?

A: If they want UT funding, they should submit through TERA PAMS.

Comments:

Someone once tried to get their travel paid on their Governor's Chair. Usually these positions are only for salary and benefits. We **do not** cover travel or supplies under these agreements. Salary and Fringe only.

Q: On the one that took 7 months to process, what could the department have done to make it go faster?

A: Problems usually occur when ORNL introduces new terms that UT is not able to accept. This causes us to have to go back and forth to modify. Generally speaking, until it happens, no one really knows. With JFOs, we don't have a lot of control. We have a little bit more control with JFUs.

Q: When OSP gets an award and there are problems, do you alert the department that a problem has come up?

A: If there is an unusual circumstance, PIs are contacted about issues and concerns but it is not general practice to always copy the business manager. Cindy does send out an email when an award is received. If needed, please ASK to be included on all correspondence.