December 8, 2010

To: UO PIs & CoPIs / Dept. Grant Administrators

Fr: ORSA Pre-Award

Re: National Science Foundation (NSF) Revised Cost-Sharing Policy

Effective for all proposals submitted or due on or after January 18, 2011

For NSF proposals only – NSF has announced a new policy that prohibits proposers from including financial cost-share information on budget forms or in the project description.*

New Cost-Sharing Policy: (from NSF Cost-Sharing Webinar, 12/7/10)

- Voluntary committed cost sharing will be prohibited in solicited and unsolicited proposals to NSF due or submitted on Jan. 18, 2011. (Note that any upcoming NSF proposals due on Jan. 15th (a Saturday) defer to a Jan. 18th deadline and fall under this new rule.)

- This means an NSF proposal budget can only include those expenses that will be paid by NSF.

- It also means the UO can’t list any ‘numeric or quantified costs’ (e.g., .5 FTE, $5.00, 5 weeks, etc) in a narrative section.

- The UO can still contribute these resources to a proposed project as long as these are only discussed in the “Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources” section of the proposal and are not quantified. The new policy states the “Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources” Section is the only place where additional project personnel, lab equipment, or other resources that are not being charged to the project can be described.

Please see examples listed on the next page.

*Note: There are 5 NSF Programs that will now require mandatory cost-sharing: Major Research Instrumentation Program (MRI); Robert Noyce Scholarship; Engineering Research Centers; Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers; and Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research. Applications from these 5 programs will have Line M of the budget available to input cost sharing information.
Examples:

**OK**  Dr. Smith will donate a portion of his time as project advisor during years 1 and 2. (Section: Facilities, Equipment & Other Resources)

**NOT OK**  Dr. Jones will provide two weeks of annual salary as a project advisor.

**OK**  Dr. Smith will provide oversight of lab GTFs and ensure protocol is followed as described. (Section: Facilities, Equipment & Other Resources)

**NOT OK**  Dr. Jones, .05 FTE, no salary requested. (Budget Justification)

**OK**  The Smith Lab will contribute its environmental heat-exchange equipment for the purpose of completing the scope of work.

**NOT OK**  The Smith Lab will provide $50,000 of fee-based services for use of its environmental heat-exchange equipment to the project work.

The new policy only effects proposals due or submitted on or after January 18, 2011. This doesn’t change any proposals already submitted or awarded.

**For additional information on the new NSF Cost-Share policy – please visit:**
http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/index.jsp or discuss specific concerns or circumstances with ORSA Pre-Award staff.