

PSU Faculty Senate
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Update on Research and Strategic Partnerships
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eRA

After receiving input from consultants we embarked on acquisition of an electronic research administration system. After interviewing several vendors, we settled on Quali Coeus, which is an open source solution supported by about 100 universities. We are currently in planning how to implement the KC solution.

This is going to be a major effort, in terms of resources and personnel in our office. The plan has not been finalized yet, but it will be done in multiple phases, with the initial phase, building all the database connections that will allow KC to talk to our personnel and other relevant databases starting in spring.

Phase 2 will include building the proposal development module. This will be the piece that will be most useful for PIs. It will allow them to track the status of their proposal as it moves through the system.

Phase 3 will include IRB and other compliance modules.

It will take several years to fully implement all the capabilities of KC, we will have a paperless system in place to allow us to better track proposals and provide reports on proposals generated, targeted agencies, etc.

This is being implemented in concert with a major reorganization of job duties and workflow in the Sponsored Projects office. That will provide better customer service in a more efficient manner.

Student Research Advisory Committee

RSP, along with the Graduate Dean, Margaret Everett, solicited nominations from chairs for participation in a student RAC that includes undergrad and grad students. We met with the committee last week for the first time. The main item of discussion was financial support of grad work. Food security was mentioned as a serious issue for some of our graduate students. 0.49 FTE or less does not allow students to qualify for federal food assistance. Dean Everett has confirmed that if appointment letters for TAs say that 0.49 FTE is equivalent to 17-20 hours/wk that will be sufficient for students to access federal food assistance.

Appointments in some departments prohibit grad students from taking on additional jobs. While this may be necessary within PSU, to prevent student's FTE from exceeding 0.5 FTE and triggering expensive benefits payments, we are investigating whether we can limit student employment outside of PSU. We suspect that we can't put restriction of student activities outside of PSU and that this issue is better dealt with through

advising students that the workload required of graduate school could make taking outside employment difficult.

In the future we will discuss ways PSU can foster a research culture among students, differences in what departments require from teaching assistants, additional ways we can help students find jobs, and entrepreneurial opportunities for students that want to start their own business.

Student Research Symposium

A symposium is being planned that will feature undergraduate and graduate research on May 8. A save-the-date announcement was sent out. A call for papers will come out in January.