

A RESOLUTION ON INFORMATION SYSTEMS NEEDED TO SUPPORT FACULTY RESEARCH EFFORTS (12/2)

- Whereas: Principal investigators and sponsored research staff are responsible for monitoring grants and contracts, purchasing and maintain equipment, buying materials, subcontracting to various vendors of services and for the appointment and compensation of research staff
- Whereas: these tasks cannot be accomplished efficiently and effectively without access to timely information on past expenditures and projections of future financial commitments over the life of a grant or contract which extends over several years
- Whereas: the current information provided on periodic paper reports to principal investigators and staff is neither timely nor informative regarding past expenditures and has no capacity to update and forecast future expenditures; indeed, currently multi-year grants appear as a series of one year projects
- Whereas: the lack of timely and comprehensive financial information hampers principal investigators and university administrators in complying with their fiduciary responsibility to monitor past expenditures and future commitments, and detracts from the time available to conduct research and pursue funding
- Whereas: current systems do not integrate grant application with budgeting, accounts payable, or human resources and do not permit analysis of financial flows over the several years of a grant or contract because human resources, grant application, and budgeting systems do not “talk” to one another
- Whereas: systems have been developed at other universities that provide electronic access to current financial statements from the point of grant application through final closeout, allow inquiry by the user, and allow monitoring of both past expenditure and projection of future expenditure patterns so that these can be compared with expected resources
- Whereas if the University is to move into the first ranks of research institutions, its information systems must be competitive with those available elsewhere, and
- Whereas: such information systems, if implemented at the University, would facilitate the operations of the Office of Sponsored Research in addition to the substantial benefits to faculty engaged in sponsored research, NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FACULTY SENATE OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

1. That the Faculty Senate recommends that the University administration and the Board of Trustees provide funding to purchase and install the software required to implement a financial information system for sponsored projects competitive with the systems at other research institutions; and
2. that this effort be conducted in consultation with the Senate Research Committee and the Advisory Council on Research to insure that the information systems are useful and used by faculty participating in sponsored research and the staff with whom they work.

Adopted by the Senate Committee on Research 23 March 2012, Anthony Yezer, Chair

Adopted, May 11, 2012