The UNIVERSITY of VERMONT

OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS
BURLINGTON, VT 05405

To: Deans, Directors and Department Chairs

From: Ruth Farrell, Associate Vice President for Research Administration

Re: Electronic Research Administration at UVM

Date: January 13, 2006

I am writing to update you about significant changes coming soon in the way UVM and all universities submit proposals to the federal government. UVM receives about $120 million annually in sponsored funding, most of which is from the federal government.

Grants.gov

Many of you may already be familiar with the federal government's electronic proposal submission initiative called Grants.gov. This web-based grant submission system was developed in response to "The Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999" also known as Public Law 106-107. This law was enacted to (1) improve the effectiveness and performance of Federal financial assistance programs, (2) simplify federal financial assistance application and reporting requirements, (3) improve the delivery of services to the public, and (4) facilitate greater coordination among those responsible for delivering services.

Grants.gov is now operational and the 26 federal agencies that award grants will soon require proposals be submitted electronically via the Grants.gov web site.

Starting with its October 1, 2006 deadline, all National Institutes of Health "R01" research proposals must be submitted through Grant.gov. Starting in 2006, the National Science Foundation will incrementally require proposals be submitted through Grants.gov rather than its "FastLane" system. Other federal agencies will quickly follow until all 26 agencies will receive only Grants.gov submissions.

The federal government's implementation of Grants.gov will necessitate changes in the way UVM manages its sponsored projects. The Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) welcomes these changes and we look forward to advancing our own internal efficiencies in order to meet the federal requirements.

UVM's plan for electronic research administration

There are two ways that proposals may be submitted through Grants.gov. First, we have already submitted several proposals successfully by reformatting and uploading those proposals directly into the Grants.gov web-based submission system and we will continue to support submissions to Grants.gov in that way. In February our office will begin providing training on Grants.gov and this method of proposal submission.

Our goal, however, is to streamline this process and create more efficient methods for faculty members to submit electronic proposals. To that end, OSP will replace its outdated and disparate administrative systems with a single integrated enterprise system from InfoEd International. The InfoEd System will allow the University to submit proposals a second way -- directly to the federal government without the additional steps required to reformat and upload them into Grants.Gov.

InfoEd proposal development system

The InfoEd system, designed to significantly reduce effort required for proposal development, routing and submission, will move us forward in several key areas.

- It will provide a means for collaborative on-line proposal development.
- It will allow electronic routing for approvals prior to submission.
- Proposals may be submitted to the federal government directly from the system without uploading or reformatting.
- It will allow academic units to view and report on proposal activity.
- It will provide single portal access to many research functions, with plans in development for on-line creation of human subjects, animal and biosafety protocols in the InfoEd system.

InfoEd interface with PeopleSoft systems

As you know, UVM's Project CATalyst team is working to replace existing administrative systems for Human Resources, Finance, Budget, Accounts Payable/Procurement, and Grant Accounting with PeopleSoft software. OSP and the CATalyst team are working closely to build interfaces between InfoEd and PeopleSoft that will bring PeopleSoft Human Resource data into InfoEd for proposal preparation and will send necessary award data for account creation to the PeopleSoft Grants module.

We expect (the) to have the InfoEd Proposal Development system operational by Fall, 2006 and plan to pilot the InfoEd system-to-system proposal submission with selected proposals at that time.

InfoEd and Research Protections

In a parallel effort, OSP's Research Protection Office has just begun a process to replace its databases with InfoEd's compliance modules that support the complex activities of our research oversight boards. The second phase of implementation will include a module for on-line creation of protocols within the system. These modules will ultimately streamline the development, review, approval, and management of protocols for the Institutional Biosafety Committee, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, and the Human Subjects Committees and will provide for seamless collaboration and centralized data management necessary to manage and monitor compliance.

History of InfoEd relationship at UVM

OSP's implementation plan builds on UVM's long and successful history with InfoEd. OSP first implemented InfoEd's funding opportunities database (SPIN) more than fifteen years ago. Subsequent to that, we added the SMARTS and GENIUS modules that store faculty profiles in the system and allow for targeted funding alerts. More recently, OSP installed InfoEd's Proposal Tracking database and we have used this database to generate reports for some time. OSP also uses the InfoEd Technology Transfer module to manage invention disclosures, patent applications, licensing agreements and royalty revenue.

"*e*-RAP" is the name chosen to represent UVM's electronic Research Administration Portal

With the implementation of the full suite of InfoEd products, UVM needs a shorthand way of referring to the entire InfoEd enterprise system. We have settled on "*e*-RAP" (for **e***lectronic* **R**esearch **A**dministration **P**ortal) to represent the entire InfoEd enterprise system at UVM.

e-RAP will refer to the common portal for accessing all research related activities that will be available to the UVM community. Faculty and administrators will login to e-RAP to gain access to:

- Funding opportunities
- Faculty profiles
- Proposal development
- Proposal tracking and reporting
- Protocol development and management

Finally, *e*-RAP will serve as a critical management tool for research faculty and administrators across the university and we look forward to working with you and your departments in implementing this system at UVM.

For more information

Please feel free to get in touch with me (656-3360, Ruth.Farrell@uvm.edu) with questions and concerns. Beverly Blakeney, the Program Director for OSP's Pre-Award Services Unit, is heading up the *e*-RAP implementation and you will soon hear from her with more details regarding the *e*-RAP training schedule, implementation dates, and a link to the *e*-RAP web site with more detailed information.