

To: Deans/Directors
From: Jim Garvey 
Interim Vice Chancellor for Research

Date: 3 August 2016

Re: Start-up and other expenditures from the OVCR for FY17

The Interim Chancellor sent a budget message to campus on 1 August 2016 reminding us that we do not have a state budget and that the stop gap funding from SB2047 is for FY16 costs not FY17.

Thus, this office is operating without FY17 budget appropriations from the state. The OVCR incurred one of the highest permanent cuts to its FY15-level budget as a response to the state crisis. This is in addition to budget cuts incurred in the past ten years, leading to an overall decline in the university-supported budget for the OVCR by at least 25%.

Until we know the status of SIUC's budget, the OVCR will halt all non-essential spending, as overhead return to the OVCR is used to cover most costs. We will continue to honor our contractual commitments including:

1. Start-up commitments to new faculty, including reimbursements to colleges for start-up funds expended last FY.
2. Required matching funds on grants. Required matching funds are cost share in the proposal submitted and accepted by the funding agency as a condition of the award.
3. Support of essential research facilities such as IMAGE, vivarium, mass spectrometry, OSPA, core ecosystem lab, research instrumentation lab.
4. CURCA will continue to be supported, with REACH, ROOKIES, and UGAs available.

Some cost-savings measures:

1. This office cannot make commitments for start-up faculty requests for faculty in FY17.

2. Start-up requests for FY18 and beyond will be considered. However, substantial (preferably 50%) matching needs to be provided by the college and department. Only faculty positions that show promise toward substantive research and creative activity outcomes will receive funds. Also, start-up funds may depend on the ability for each faculty member to receive external grant support. Requests for supplemental salary and travel as part of start-up packages will only be honored if units show how research development of new faculty members will be augmented.
3. Equipment purchases off of start-up, grants, or matching funds should be first vetted relative to existing equipment and facilities on campus. The OVCR tracks equipment and facilities on campus and should be consulted for major instrumentation on all expenditures. Equipment that can be shared across campus and serves multiple investigators or serves SIU's unique goal toward merging arts, humanities, and STEM fields, especially in the context of community engagement and outreach, will be given high priority. See <http://siuresearch.blogspot.com/2016/04/address-from-ovcr-state-of-research-at.html> for the larval stages of this "vision" for research and creative activity on campus.
4. Until further notice, no voluntary waivers of indirect costs on new grants and contracts will be allowed, unless there is a historical precedence with the funding agency.
5. Funds for graduate assistantships through OVCR appointments (e.g., on start-ups or as requested mandatory match) should favor PhD-track students or post-doctoral fellows.

As always, emergency requests for equipment repair, unique research opportunities, and other needs will be considered by this office. But until the budget crisis is resolved, our highest priority is protecting our commitment to existing junior faculty on campus and ensuring their success.

cc: Brad Colwell, Interim Chancellor
Susan Ford, Interim Provost
Wayne Glass, OSPA