

General CCAS Research Town Hall

Time: Dec 17, 2020 11:00 AM Eastern Time

Evie Downie, Associate Dean of Research

Evie shared 24 slides answering questions from the results of the COVID-19 Impacts on Research survey that went out to CCAS faculty.

The slides can be found on the CCAS Research Blog.

Tenure Clock Extension- The procedure to request a single-year extension to the Tenure Clock can be found on the Provost's Office [Tenure and Promotion webpage](#). Pre-tenure faculty whose research has been impacted in a way that causes a longer delay should speak to their Chair or Program Director, who will work with John Philbeck, the Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs to make an appropriate, well-motivated request.

Contract Faculty Renewal- Our Contract Faculty are highly valued colleagues, who contribute substantially to the life of the college. Contract renewal process will proceed at regularly scheduled times. Mention any COVID-19 impacts in the 2-page progress statement within the dossier. Dossiers are reviewed by the department, then the Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs, then the Provost. As review is entirely internal, clear guidelines will be given to all reviewing entities to ensure they take the COVID impacts documented in the dossier into account in their review. Reach out to John Philbeck for faculty affairs questions.

Discussion with the Provost is ongoing re: requests made for allowing extensions

Intramural support- Lots of links are available with resources and funding opportunities. OVPR funding has already been launched- UFF is closed and CDRF closed Dec 17 (today). HFF is planned to be launched but OVPR is waiting to see if it's financially possible. For existing funding, Request No Cost Extension in [Infoready](#) if affected by COVID-19.

CCAS intramural funding- Mitigation plan is complete and we have to stay on track with the plan of reduced budgets throughout this fiscal year. FY22 budgets will be developed this spring.

All CCAS research funding is currently on hold. We are waiting until we know at the end of the spring semester what funds may be available to offer for faculty support. If possible in the new fiscal year, we may activate Nick of Time and Book Publishing award opportunities. Those small awards can make a big difference to many faculty. If financially possible, we may open up the Dean's Research Chair for review in fall and begin the award process in spring 2022. Other internal awards next fiscal year may not be made available, depending on the fiscal status at the time.

Can you apply for the Enhanced Faculty Travel award if you have a Dean's Research Chair award? It is not possible to simultaneously hold a current DRC award and receive an Enhanced Travel award, as they are substantially the same benefit. If you have a DRC, you can apply to other research funding offered by CCAS.

CCFF funds come from CCAS operating funds - they are released from the operating budget of the college after you spend them, thus no-cost extensions for CCFF shift expenditures from one fiscal year to

another, and that may not always be possible, depending on the allowed budget. We will try to offer no-cost extensions for existing awards if possible. It may be hard to do because they come from the C-fund (the operating budget) whereas other awards like DRC come from the R-funds.

R-funds- Please keep to the budgets made by the chairs and shared with our finance office, no overspending. R funds will not “disappear” if they are not spent, but the spending must be budgeted at this point in time so that the university can prejudice necessary cash flow. Awards made to R-funds can be no-cost extended as they are transferred to departmental R-funds at the time of the award.

Start up funds are not restricted but are budgeted. Please make sure that your department administrator and chair / program director are aware of all charges that need to be made to your startup and have submitted the budget for those charges to the college.

Campus Access-There are strict rules for access to campus to which you must adhere.

Departments were asked for lists of seniors who need access for Capstone projects. Kim Gross has gathered that information and arranged for access with the Provost's Office. Contact Kim Gross to request access if any seniors in need of it have been missed. Non-senior students who need access to engage in research need to apply themselves and should have a letter of support from their faculty mentor. They should be participants in project-driven research to be allowed on campus. If you have an undergrad working on a project where they are going to be a co-author, and really involved, or with some form of fellowship or funding, they can get approved access. The risk / reward balance is not however sufficient to allow undergraduate students access to campus to perform menial work like washing bottles, or simply “gaining research experience” by participating broadly in lab activities without a well-defined project.

Evie, Kim and Gina Lohr all review the undergrad campus access applications then pass the approved ones to the Provost's office for access protocols to be implemented.

Grad students need to request campus access via the grad dean, Chad Heap, for spring 2021, due today (Dec 17)

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc5dGp5diCdFsH5RvC8L1BOGtxoHJ4uJt2QvOmbghmv-OYeew/viewform?usp=sf_link

Faculty campus access should be requested, if not admitted last semester, should still apply for the next semester if-need-be. (Due Dec 18) <https://t.e2ma.net/click/hev0yc/9f7gex/l1ndrs>

Staff should request campus access through HR. There are protocols for contractors.

All GWorld cards are shut off, no access to buildings. Card renewals are being done virtually. Brand new employees getting access to their GWorld cards??? - Evie will look into how this is done.

Hiring for Research Staff- Process and exemption from Resource Allocation Committee for externally funded positions is outlined - see slides.

REIA- funds are determined by central. 8% of indirect costs goes to the PI faculty and is normally released in August. We are still waiting on communication from the Provost to be announced that REIA will continue. [Since then, REIA funds and IDC return on GRAs were released to PIs]

POD 1- administrative support for proposals and post award

Fewer staff in the POD that used to support multiple schools, but should provide the same support Pls previously received from the SRAs, given the new structure.

If having issues with support, contact Evie and Juliana so issues can be addressed.

Questions:

Access to SEH between Christmas and New years?

Need to fill out form for continuous access to SEH

Can we discuss indirect cost rates (in the face of reduced on campus activity). Retroactive until last July?

All new grants awarded on or after Jan 1st 2021 will have a new indirect rate (61.5% on-campus).

Ongoing grants will have the same indirect rate that they had before.

If it's a competitive renewal on or after Jan 1st 2021, the new indirect rate will be used.

Are the REIA funds given mostly to Science folks?

They are given to anyone who has indirect costs on their awards, and are used for the purposes to which indirect costs should be e.g. computers for post docs or funds for professional development. REIA is used to support the aspects necessary for research that can't be typically charged to the grant.

What about computers? My faculty members want to order their own computers to specific specifications. Where are we on that right now?

Faculty should talk to OTS/IT about computers since they will be property of the university and will be getting tech support

W-4 address changes, talk to Tax@gwu.edu for questions

The CDRF does require that applicant have previously held external funding - this requirement is determined by the schools. CCAS would consider an external fellowship such as an NEH Summer stipend as prior funding. If in doubt, please make sure to email edownie@gwu.edu at the time of CDRF application to make it clear that you have held such a stipend etc. as they do not run through the university and we will only know if you notify us.