University of Florida Integrated Research Support Tool
August 2014 Update

The Office of Research continues to invest energy into UFIRST – a program to develop new business models and tools that can improve sponsored programs effectiveness at UF. If you are new to the program, we recommend you visit: https://research.ufl.edu/faculty-and-staff/initiatives/ufirst.html for background information and previous updates.

Major developments since February 2014 include:

Business processes and system

The University has determined that the ClickCommerce Grants management software "Click" meets the majority of the specifications outlined in the UFIRST core team meetings held in July & August 2013. Implementation planning began June 2, 2014. The plan calls for a new proposal development, routing and management tool to be implemented in March 2015 at which time, proposal routing will be entirely done in Click. Extended training is scheduled to take place January-March 2015.

 A campus team has been formed to outline the details of the new system. They have designed a new proposal routing form and the budget building tool as well as outlined how streamlined routing and approval will function. Details on each of these are and will continue to be posted under the Project Documents tab of the UFIRST website (http://research.ufl.edu/faculty-and-staff/initiatives/ufirst/project-documents.html).

 Additional phases of implementation for submission of grants electronically to grants.gov (replacing Cayuse by October 2015) and for setting up and viewing awards will be completed by March 2016. Watch for more announcements, updates and invitations to help make our Click implementation a success!

Data Management

Have you ever not been able to find "National Institutes of Health" information in campus reporting tools? That's because its abbreviated sometimes as "NATL INST OF HLTH", other times as "NATIONAL INST OF HEALTH" and other variations, depending on where you look! We're working on solving this problem and many more related to standard and reliable data. Two Master Data Management teams – one each tackling award and sponsor data – have been meeting weekly over the past two months to define data elements (what is a "project type" or a "category"?), standards, and taxonomies and to develop methods to clean and monitor data going forward. The work these teams are doing will ensure that more reliable reports will be provided from central campus reporting tools. Both teams are set to finish their design and definitions phase early fall 2014 and start to implement the improvements in early 2015.