University of Florida Integrated Research Support Tool February 2014 Update

In a review of research administrative business practices initiated in the summer of 2013, the University of Florida identified that processes supporting sponsored project administration at the University of Florida do not take advantage of current technologies and national best practices. As a result, there have been challenges to supporting investigators effectively over the past nine years. The University looks to reverse that trend and through engagement of the entire sponsored program community, develop new business models and tools that can increase administrative capacity to support the desired growth in sponsored programs at UF.

Major areas of focus identified processes that would best provide:
1. Increased administrative **capacity**
2. Reduced institutional **risk** and increased **compliance**
3. Improved **resource** allocation
4. Increased **transparency**:
5. Improved **reporting** tools and data access for ad hoc and custom reporting needs

Major developments over the past six months include:

Dashboards and Notifications

The University of Florida has contracted with Mobiquity to develop One.UF, a platform for mobile ready deployment of information including notifications and approvals. UFIRST's proposal, awards, and compliance protocol status and PeopleSoft workflow approvals will be the first module deployed in this platform. This tool will allow faculty to approve their applications that are routed through PeopleSoft from a mobile friendly (iphone, ipad, android, and desktop) application.

The contract with Mobiquity will position the University to quickly deploy additional modules for notifications for necessary actions in the research space. The UFIRST module is scheduled to be deployed by Fall 2014.
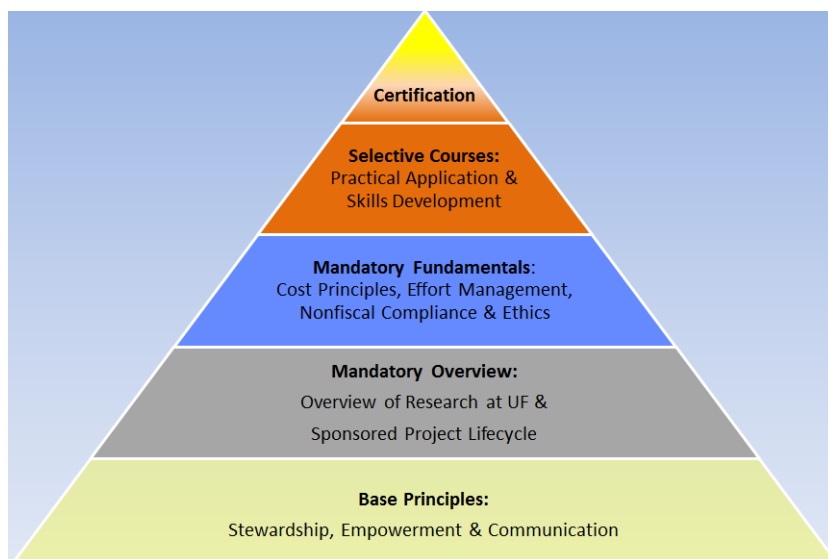
Business processes and system

The University has spent the last four months analyzing available systems and tools that meet the majority of the specifications outlined in the UFIRST core team meetings held in July & August 2013. Building a tool from scratch with existing University resources was deemed too significant an undertaking given desired timelines and future owning and operating costs. Therefore, existing industry tools for being considered are: PeopleSoft, ClickCommerce, Kuali COEUS, and other custom built applications. A decision support matrix outlining how the systems meet University requirements, the cost of owning and operating and the potential implementation timelines will be developed and presented to campus leadership for consideration in February 2014.

Training

A new training model has been developed and approved by the Directors of Sponsored Programs, Research Compliance, and Contracts & Grants Accounting. The new model moves from transaction-based training to context building, principle based education. Combined with practical skills resources and information, this new model will develop a culture of compliance and a body of certified research administrators who can lead the University into more compliant and efficient research programs.

The new model includes two mandatory context building courses, four mandatory principles courses, and then skills based application courses which result in a variety of certifications available to all research administrative staff. Development of the contextual foundation courses begins spring 2014.

Reporting

Data Management

The University of Florida has contracted with Gartner Consulting to support the University's transition to Master Data Management. Gartner will guide the University in creating a single source of truth for research information and a governance model for ensuring quality control and stewardship of that data going forward. Only with quality and complete data will the University be able to develop useful information for supporting business decisions. The project kickoff is February 18, 2014 and expected to last 8-12 weeks.

Reporting & Business Intelligence

In order to support access to quality data, the University of Florida is investing in resources to provide information to interested parties. Data analysts with access to reporting tools that can support review of research trends, performance measures, and compliance activity will be able to deliver information timely to the Office of Research and then ultimately the Deans, Directors, Chairs, and others with responsibility for managing research portfolios. At time of this update, positions descriptions have been drafted. The Office of Research will begin recruitment in February 2014.

Questions and comments regarding UFIRST can be directed to Stephanie Gray, Director, Division of Sponsored Programs at ufirst@research.ufl.edu.