SECTION II – Research Initiation

Sponsored Programs provides assistance to faculty in the preliminary stages of the grantsmanship process. It functions as a clearinghouse for information on funding sources for sponsored projects and helps faculty identify funding sources for external support (non-donative) of the faculty’s scholarly activities. It assists in locating guidelines necessary for applying to those sources and assists faculty in registering for email notification of funding opportunities via “SMARTS”. In addition to offering training on grantsmanship, funding sources and university procedures related to submitting proposals, staff is also available to meet with faculty to discuss potential funding avenues for their ideas.

Research Opportunity Information Collection

Sponsored Programs identifies major programs which could be of interest to university faculty and collects descriptive information, guidelines, and applications for those funding opportunities. Sponsored Programs does not collect information on donative sources, such as non-governmental endowments, funds, trusts and foundations. Assistance regarding these sources is available from Advancement and Strategic Initiatives (https://advancing.colostate.edu/ASI).

Electronic Resources. Access to all of the Sponsored Programs tools described below can be found on the Research tab on the RamPoint web page (http://rampoint.colostate.edu).

Sponsored Programs is committed to providing faculty with quick and easy access, at their personal computer, to agency information and funding opportunity resources. Such information is organized on the Research tab on the RamPoint web page (http://rampoint.colostate.edu/) and includes:

- **SPIN (Sponsored Programs Information Network).** Faculty members are provided direct access to funding opportunities through SPIN. SPIN is a computer database of over 13,000 funding opportunities (federal, non-federal and corporate) designed to assist faculty in the identification of external support. Faculty may search SPIN’s database, free of charge, on the Internet from any computer on campus.

  To use SPIN, keywords and text describing a specific research topic are selected. The terms are subsequently entered electronically into SPIN, which searches its database of over 13,000 funding programs. SPIN immediately displays a listing of potential sponsors, contact information and an abstract of the sponsors’ programmatic interests. Upon examining the programs and selecting potentially viable sources, the programs of interest to the investigator may be printed. Sponsored Programs will assist in locating full proposal guidelines and/or packets for the programs selected for submission.

- **SMARTS (SPIN Matching and Researcher Transmittal System).** SMARTS is an electronic matching and funding opportunity notification system which will provide faculty with a direct and targeted electronic link to comprehensive, current U.S. Federal and non-Federal (and expanding international) research funding information. The faculty profile information is collected via forms on InfoEd’s SMARTS/GENIUS system and
used at InfoEd for matching with the SPIN (Sponsored Programs Information Network) database. These two data sources interact so that “matchmaking” is conducted on a daily basis. “Matched” programs are then automatically e-mailed to the individual researchers every day. Register for SMARTS under the Funding Opportunities and Agencies section at http://portal.research.colostate.edu/spweb/ or contact Sponsored Programs for help in registering.

- **What’s New.** “What’s New” is Sponsored Programs’ primary mechanism for communicating policy and procedure announcements to the University community. In addition to announcements, “What’s New” contains Agency Updates, information on Training Opportunities, Electronic Resources, Program Profiles, Restricted Programs and Major Agency Deadlines. Information on “What’s New” is linked to other Web sites so that the reader has access to summary information as well as the complete source from which the article was written. Faculty and staff can also subscribe to “What’s New” to automatically receive email notification as new postings are added. To subscribe to “What’s New”, click on the link below: http://portal.research.colostate.edu/whatsnew/subwhatsnew.htm

- **Proposal Approval and Support System (PASS).** PASS is a Web-based proposal notification system. It is the location to enter general information regarding planned proposals. PASS provides proposal notification to Sponsored Programs and Advancement and Strategic Initiatives, serves as the mechanism to obtain approval to submit to a Managed Sponsor and offers the user a variety of search/report capabilities regarding planned proposal submission. PASS also contains a link to the Proposal Budget Spreadsheet (PBS) and a link to the status of active 5-3 projects. Sponsored Programs internal approval forms (ie. SP-1) are created and approved electronically through this system.

- **Proposal Budget Spreadsheet (PBS).** PBS was developed for use by research investigators and their staff to assist in the accurate creation of proposal budgets. It is continually updated to reflect changes in fringe and facilities and administrative rates as well as when program enhancements are made. In addition, the program will print a number of agency proposal forms.

One of the functions of Sponsored Programs Services is to distribute funding opportunity information to campus faculty in a timely fashion. Faculty may request specific program information from their Sponsored Programs team (http://portal.research.colostate.edu/research/org.pdf) or by indicating on PASS that they need guidelines for a specific program deadline.

**Presentations and Meetings**

In keeping with Sponsored Programs’ charge to facilitate research at Colorado State, seminars are offered during the year, some by special request on select topics of grantsmanship, such as proposal development, identifying funding sources and funding prospects in specific discipline areas. Departments may request that Sponsored Programs staff attend departmental or other
faculty meetings to discuss topics related to external support specific to departmental interests. Hands-on computer lab training sessions for PASS, PBS, SPIN and SMARTS may be scheduled upon request in the CTSS computer lab in the Weber Building on campus. In addition, individual training is offered for SPIN and SMARTS.

Sponsored Programs can be most effective when its staff members are acquainted with faculty research interests. Please do not hesitate to arrange to meet with Sponsored Programs staff to inform them of your interests. A current staff listing can be found at http://portal.research.colostate.edu/research/staffsummary.htm.