

FY10 Annual Survey Comments and SP Responses....

Comments #6: Grant information provided to me by SP's staff is...

Comments: It has not yet been relevant. Usually the information from the Sponsored Programs is not very helpful for what I'm interested in.

SP Response: Over the next six months, Sponsored Programs is meeting with department chairs to update our knowledge of the department goals and faculty members research interests. SP recently purchased access to a new database capable of improved searches for over 4.6 million grants - now analyzed and categorized, representing granting activity since year 2000 for all 990-PF reporting foundations; valuable information for over 100,000 US foundations including detailed giving trends and patterns for more than 60,000 grant-making foundations; and over 613,000 searchable foundation 990-PFs. SVSU faculty and staff are welcome to meet with SP to discuss their areas of interest.

Comment: Sometimes the information arrives too late to take advantage of the opportunity.

SP Response: The federal postings are purposeful in the timeline offered to reduce the number of applications received. SP considers a six week window from guideline posting to grant due date as typical. Since many federal grants are posted annually, faculty may choose to prepare for next year's opportunity if the deadline does not fit your schedule.

Comments #12: The SP website is...

Comment: It is easy to get to Sponsored Programs from IRB, but not to IRB from Sponsored Programs home page.

SP Response: See www.svsu.edu/sponsoredprograms then click on Institutional Review Board (left toolbar). The IRB web page has been expanded to be more comprehensive. Click on the topic of interest on the left toolbar under the IRB heading for easy navigation.

Comment: Finding instructions for research release time proposal application is confusing.

SP Response: See www.svsu.edu/sponsoredprograms then click on Internal Grants (left toolbar). Application guidelines for internal grants; Allen Foundation, SVSU Faculty Research Grant, and Professional Growth Grant are listed under each respective title.

Comment: Unless you navigate all the way through it you would never know what is there. It could use a more intuitive interface, e.g., if you want to research a grant opportunity, click here; if you want ideas on managing a grant click...

SP Response: SP is condensing pages, grouping information, and generally deleting redundant information to make pages user friendly.

Comment: Is there a way to do keyword search and find grant opportunities?

SP Response: There is not a way to conduct a grant opportunity search on the Sponsored Programs website, but there are websites available for searches. Grants.gov is a source to FIND and APPLY for federal government grants. Click on Find Grant Opportunities on the left tool bar and you can then conduct a basic search, browse by agency, browse by category, or conduct an advanced search. You can sign up for Grant Email Alerts, link located on the right tool bar under for applicants, or subscribe to the RSS feed, icon is located on the top of each page. See

www.svsu.edu/sponsoredprograms then click on External Funding Sources (left toolbar). The Grants Resource Center, Illinois Researcher Information Services and the National Science Foundation are all resources that have the ability to conduct grant opportunity searches. Contact SP at 964-4295 to set up an appointment for assistance in your searches.

Comments #13: I view SP as a user-friendly resource.

Comment: Very, Very, user-friendly.

Comments #14: Ideas to improve effectiveness in meeting grant writing/implementation needs.

Comment: I can think of none; I have been most pleased with the support available.

Comment: Need to have think-center for people of different disciplines to come together to write grants. Collaborative component of research could be emphasized more. Perhaps bringing people together at a table from across the campus that could collaborate on a grant idea when you see such an opportunity.

SP Response:

A barrier to this matchmaking is an electronic expertise database that would provide not just matchmaking capabilities, but a valued service to faculty. Last month a colleague in California told me about a system developed for university faculty, called Digital Measures, that would help a faculty member keep their vita electronically and at the same time enroll in this expert database, allowing for match-making. I'm looking into the cost for this system.

The University supports interdisciplinary teams. At the same time it is incumbent for all faculty to network at SVSU to form professional alliances and cross-discipline projects that benefit the faculty members. You know your discipline best; ask your colleagues to read your proposal and give you critical feedback.

Comments: Reduce paper work. Proposal process too cumbersome.

SP Response: Many times the funder will have requirements/guidelines for the application process. If those requirements/guidelines are not followed, the application may not be accepted for review.

Comment: Hard to say, more discipline specific information. Information directly related to my areas of potential scholarship.

SP Response: You are always welcome to call to make an appointment to tell us of your research interests.

Comment: Provide sample proposals that were funded for review.

SP Response: If a grant receives federal funding, that application is available through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). If you would like a particular proposal, please let SP know. We will issue the FOIA letter for you.

SP has three notebooks on file of funded applications from different agencies; all application written by SVSU employees are available for your review. Let us know your interests.

Comment: Check with the author before making changes and putting a proposal in the mail. The format of an application was changed without verifying the applicant was informed, something to be aware of moving forward.

SP Response: SP sometimes needs to change formatting of an application to fit the guidelines of the funder. Any content changes are reviewed with the applicant.

Comment: Consider hiring a statistician in the future to assist faculty with the study design part and with the analyses.

SP Response: SP does not have the resources to meet this request.

Comment: Add direct involvement in grant coordination on any large grant, like WIRED.

SP Response: Direct involvement, meaning day-to-day oversight or administrative support, would need to be budgeted in the funded proposal.

Comment: Handouts would be good.

SP Response: Contact SP, we can assist you in locating resources to support your writing/implementation needs.

Comments #16: Quarterly progress meetings for funded projects are...

Comments: These work well to keep everyone within a project mutually informed. My grant was before SP had these quarterly progress meetings.

Comments: I don't think I have received one. Perhaps sending both an email and a hard copy would be useful. I've had a project but no meetings. Never had them for the grants I received.

SP Response: Depending on the duration of the grant, a phone call or email may be sufficed for communicating grant requirements.

Comment: Require lots of person hours; have difficulty in using the accounting reports to determine how much money I have left; am I over budget, etc. especially for multiyear reports.

SP Response: Contact either SP or a grant accountant to answer any questions you may have.