



U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

**Programmatic Issues Raised by the
NRC Office of General Counsel**

**Office of Human Resources
September 22, 2010
Dallas, Texas**

Scholarships, Fellowships, and Trade School and Community College Scholarships

- **Is the grantee permitted to spend a reasonable amount of funds on course development?**
- **Answer: Yes, if the grantee has no, or very few, courses to teach the students. If the grantee already has an existing program, then the answer is no.**

Grant Funding

- **Of the funding awarded under the grant, how much may be spent on non-program activity?**
- **Answer: The grantee should maximize funding for the purposes of the grant as delineated in the funding opportunity announcement.**

Tuition for Graduate Students

- **Can graduate students receive tuition under the faculty development grant?**
- **Answer: Yes, but the tuition must be related to the research being performed by the faculty member and should be used only for students actively engaged in that research and in support of courses that relate directly to the faculty member's research and curricula development work.**

Principal Investigator's Time

- **How much time may the Principal Investigator spend on administrative functions?**
- **Answer: The Principal Investigator should spend little or no time on administrative functions and maximize time on programmatic issues.**

Fees for Lab Materials, Books, Goggles, etc.

- **Are costs associated with fees for lab materials, books, goggles, etc., permissible under the grant?**
- **Answer: Yes.**

Recruiting and Advertising Costs

- **Can recruiting and advertising costs be charged against the grant?**
- **Answer: Costs incurred for the purposes of recruiting and advertising can be charged against the grant but only to the minimal extent possible.**

Mentoring Activities

- **Can mentoring activities be charged against the grant?**
- **Answer: No, this activity is deemed to be a normal part of a faculty member's responsibilities.**

Instructors' Salaries and Fringe Benefits under Scholarships and Fellowships

- **Can salaries and fringe benefits for instructors be charged under Scholarship and Fellowship awards?**
- **Answer: Yes, this is allowed but should not be a large percentage of the grant amount.**

Use of Research Foundations

- **Can awards be made to Research Foundations that support Universities?**
- **Answer: The authority for this grant program does not allow awards to be made to Research Foundations that support Universities. Awards can only be made to accredited universities, colleges and trade schools.**

Anti-Lobbying Certifications

- **What is an anti-lobbying certification and how does it differ from the SF-LLL?**
- **Answer: The anti-lobbying certification is required as found in 31 USC 3152. The distinction is that the SF-LLL is where grantees report lobbying activities in the past while the anti-lobbying certification states that the grantee will not lobby in the future with federal funds.**

Scholarship funds and Equipment

- **Can instructional equipment be purchased with scholarship funds?**
- **Answer: This question arises most frequently with trade schools and community colleges. The answer is yes, if the equipment is necessary for instruction of the students.**

Service Agreements

- **Can a recipient of grant funds obtain an advanced degree prior to satisfying the service agreement obligation to the nuclear sector?**
- **Answer: Yes, but the recipient must first request and receive approval from the NRC before beginning the next degree program.**

Service Agreements (con't.)

- **Can a recipient of grant funds claim that job offers are not appropriate or satisfactory and not perform the service requirement?**
- **Answer: No, good faith efforts must be demonstrated to the NRC for a waiver of the service agreement.**

Contractor Data Collection Efforts/ Reviews of Effectiveness of University's Grant Program

- **Are contractor data collection efforts or reviews of effectiveness of the university's grant program a permissible use of NRC grant funds?**
- **Answer: No.**

Title of Proposed Project

- **Is it appropriate to use the name of the NRC in the title of the proposed project?**
- **Answer: No, applicants should describe a Nuclear Scholarship or Fellowship Program as the *University's* Nuclear Scholarship or Fellowship Program, not the *NRC's* Scholarship or Fellowship Development Program.**

Questions? - Forward to:

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