Memorandum

To: University Research Community

From: Roberto M. Gutierrez
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         Office of Research and Economic Development

Subj.:   Updated Automated Compliance Checking of NSF Proposals

Date: July 11, 2016

The National Science Foundation (NSF) continues to focus on the use of automated compliance checks of proposals via Fastlane in order to decrease administrative burden on both the research community and NSF staff while also trying to reduce the number of proposals returned without review due to administrative non-compliance issues.

Please note that in addition to the current administrative compliance checks in place, effective July 25, 2016, all proposals to the NSF submitted via Fastlane will be subject to additional automated compliance validation checks to ensure they comply with the requirements outlined in Chapter II.C.2. of the NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG).

The new set of automated compliance checks will trigger error messages for each of the following rules:
1. Biographical Sketch(es) and Current and Pending Support files are required for each Senior Personnel associated with a proposal; and
2. Biographical Sketch(es) can only be uploaded as a file, must not exceed two pages and can no longer be entered as text.

This change will also have an impact on any proposal file updates (PFUs) for proposals submitted prior to July 25th, 2016 if said proposals contained only one Biographical Sketch and/or Current & Pending Support file (rather than individual files for each senior personnel). A PFU addressing any section of the proposal will result in the proposal not being accepted if it does not comply with these new compliance checks. The checks will be run on all sections of the proposal regardless of which section was updated during the PFU.

The research community should be aware that Grants.gov will allow a proposal to be submitted, even if it does not comply with the NSF proposal preparation requirements. Should NSF receive a proposal from Grants.gov that is not compliant they will return it without review, therefore ORED continues to suggest that all proposals to the NSF be submitted using NSF's Fastlane no later than Noon on the sponsor's deadline date.

If there are any additional questions regarding these updated automated compliance checks of proposals via Fastlane then please feel free to contact your Pre Award representative (http://research.fiu.edu/dor/pages/staff-directory.html) at 305-348-2494 for further assistance.