

North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System Research Service

STANDING OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP)

Dean's Account Contribution and Disbursement Processes

June 24, 2021

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1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this SOP is to describe the process for contributing to the University of Florida (UF) Dean’s Account, to outline procedures for requesting disbursement from the account, and to delineate items and activities that have priority in terms of accessing the funds.

2. POLICY

The funds in this account are designated for the “VA Research Center.” These funds can be used for myriad purposes, as long as the charge represents a benefit to VA research. While there has typically been a broad interpretation of the benefit to research, the intent of funds dispersed is to be used for:

1. The general benefit to the VA research community.
2. Principle investigators (PI) to purchase items and/or materials that are essential for the continuation of their research that were not anticipated in their grant budget.
3. PI travel to present scientific results at prestigious national meetings not otherwise covered by grant funds up to \$1,200.00 or leadership travel (such as ACOS or Director) for recruitment interviews for VA Research Service up to \$1,500.00.
4. Other activities that add value to the scope and mission of the research enterprise at the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System (NF/SG VHS).

3. PROCEDURES FOR INVESTIGATORS

Assigning VA as Center Recipient

Investigators and departments can manage distribution details for Facilities & Administration eligible research projects for NIH or other grant applications by following the procedures detailed in the document “Guide – UFIRST Updating Project F&A Returns.” See also “UFIRST Updating Project F&A Returns Advice.” In **step 4** of the Guide, you are asked to select the Center to which funds are to be allocated. Enter “%VA” in the text box. This will bring up the Dean’s Account.

Requesting Funds from Account

1. To receive funds from the Dean’s Account, investigators are required to make a formal request to the Research Budget Subcommittee.
2. The request can be in the form of a memorandum but must include the following:
 - a. Reason for the request through this mechanism.
 - b. How the funds will be used to enhance the research program at NF/SG VHS.
 - c. Total amount of funds requested with budget justification.

4. PROCEDURES FOR R&D COMMITTEES

Once approval or disapproval is recommended by the Research Budget Subcommittee (RBS), that item is recorded in the RBS Minutes and those minutes are presented to the R&D Committee for final approval by the RBS Coordinator. The Chair or designated representative of the RBS will provide a report on the topic to the R&D Committee during its monthly meeting regarding discussion and recommendations. The R&D Committee will make a motion and vote on final approval or disapproval of the request.

5. DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

- A. **Medical Center Director** is responsible for: final approval /sign-off on fund dispersion request.
- B. **ACOS/R** is responsible for: Routing requests to the Chief of Staff and System Director for approval of funding.
- C. **Research and Development Committee (R&D)** is responsible for: Approval of recommendations submitted by the Research Budget Subcommittee and forwarding this approval to the ACOS/R to route through the COS to the System Director.
- D. **Research Budget Subcommittee** is responsible for: reviewing requests from research investigators or ACOS/Research for using Dean’s Account funds; ensuring requests meet the intent of disbursement requirements; and making recommendations to the Research and Development Committee for approval/disapproval of funding requests submitted to the Subcommittee. RBS will also be charged with providing an annual report to the R&D Committee on the charges to and balance remaining in the Dean’s Account.

6. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY

This SOP will be reviewed annually, and revised as needed by the ACOS/Research and the Chair of the Research Budget Subcommittee.

RBS Review History

Original Date: 01/27/14

Last Reviewed: 6/24/21