WHAT IS SPARCS

Sponsored Programs & Regulatory Compliance (SPARCS) provides services to facilitate the submission of proposals, negotiation of agreements, and the administration of internally and externally funded projects. SPARCS also provides services to faculty and staff engaged in research involving animal or human subjects. Other regulatory compliance matters such as Conflict of Interest and Commitment Management, Export Controls and Research Integrity are facilitated by SPARCS personnel.

SPARCS’ MOTTO

To illustrate our commitment to you, the office has adopted a motto to Achieve:

- respect by knowing our clientele
- leadership through service
- compliance through facilitation
- improvement by seeking feedback
- excellence through caring...

AGREEMENT NEGOTIATION

SPARCS focuses much of its attention on negotiating the terms and conditions of agreements. Why? Because the institution’s driving principles to maintain objectivity in science, explore new knowledge without restriction and to remain unencumbered in the transfer of knowledge is almost always compromised by the initial terms of sponsored agreements. If we sign off on an agreement, for example, that restricted our ability to publish the results of our research then why are we doing the research at all? Most contract negotiations take between 2 and 11 days. Some of the main negotiation points center around:

- Publication restrictions
- Intellectual Property Matters
- Legal issues such as indemnification and insurance
- Payment and financial reporting provisions
- Technical reporting and breach of contract terms
RESEARCH INTEGRITY
Be honest no matter what!

RECORD--Record the scope, hypothesis, experimental design and conclusions for the day. If your scholarship is in a field not conducive to bound lab notebooks, update your journal on your academic pursuits and endeavors.

REVIEW--Review your entries for the past several days and ensure they are complete.

INSTRUCT--Document instructions given to subordinates or received from supervisors of your work.

COUNSEL--Counsel your subordinate scholars on how to maintain lab notebooks and journals.

THINK--Stop and think about what you and your subordinate scholars are doing, how you are ensuring objectivity, your place in the world of exploration and knowledge transfer. Are you satisfied or are you overwhelmed? If the latter, fix your problems NOW.

DOUBLE CHECK--Check, double check and seriously, triple check your literature searches, references lists and other bibliographical materials and assure yourself that you've properly referenced others.

HEAL--Shore up adversarial relationships, especially professional ones.

Can’t [do] science without:…

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
A conflict of interest is a circumstance that might impair your objectivity as an employee of North Carolina State University. Such circumstances are not intolerable if they are disclosed and properly managed.

Disclosure is your ability to transfer the risk of impaired objectivity to the institution. Why wouldn't you do it?

CONFLICT OF COMMITMENT
A conflict of commitment is a circumstance that professional activities external to your employment with NC State may interfere with your NC State employee responsibilities.

External professional activities are not only encouraged of our EPA professionals and faculty but they are expected. Why? Because they afford an opportunity for “real-life” knowledge to be added to the intellectual fabric of the institution.

EXPORT CONTROLS
A bourgeoning area of compliance for universities is in export control. Export controls are promulgated by the federal government to control the transfer of certain technologies and information to other countries. This is a highly complex area of compliance.

HUMAN SUBJECTS
Interaction or intervention with a living human being for the purposes of collecting data requires careful planning and consideration by the Institutional Review Board office. Working with the NC State IRB is among the most efficient administrative processes around. Visit the IRB website at:
http://www.ncsu.edu/sparcs/irb/

ANIMAL SUBJECTS
The Animal Care and Use office houses the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee and the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research Administration and University Attending Veterinarian. Contact information as well as extensive information on the use and care of animals is available from the following website:
http://www.ncsu.edu/iacuc/

http://www.ncsu.edu/sparcs