March 12, 2015

TO: Deans and Vice Chancellors

FROM: Warwick Arden, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor
       Charles Leffler, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Business
       Mladen Vouk, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Economic Development

SUBJECT: Certification Statement Message

Effective December 26, 2014, the Office of Management and Budget issued a new set of regulations, called Uniform Guidance. This new set of regulations continues a trend of ever-increasing oversight and reporting, but consolidates several OMB circulars, including A21, A110 and A133.

As part of Uniform Guidance, to ensure that award transactions are in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Federal Award, the certification statement required on all grant and contract closeout reports has been revised as noted in bold below:

"By signing this report, I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the report is true, complete, and accurate, and the expenditures, disbursements and cash receipts are for the purposes and objectives set forth in the terms and conditions of the Federal award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information, or the omission of any material fact, may subject me to criminal, civil or administrative penalties for fraud, false statements, false claims or otherwise. (U.S. Code Title 18, Section 1001 and Title 31, Sections 3729-3730 and 3801-3812)."

The certification statement will be part of all award closeout reports on Federally-funded awards. The closeout for these awards is fixed at 90 days from the award end date. In order to allow time for final review, reconciliation, completion and submission of the final financial report, closeout reports must be submitted no later than 60 days after project ending date to the Office of Contracts and Grants.

The primary party responsible for approving this certification will be the Principal Investigator responsible for managing the applicable award project, or segment in the case in interdisciplinary awards. It will be the responsibility of the Dean/Director of the respective college/unit to ensure that the certified closeout is approved by the appropriate PI prior to the closeout being routed to Contracts & Grants.

These assignments of responsibility have been made after careful consideration. We appreciate your efforts in this additional compliance requirement.

cc: Research Operations Council
    University Research Committee
    Business Leads