Promoting Ethics and Accountability in Research Administration

UCSB Audit and Advisory Services



Sponsored Projects Training for Administrators in Research – STAR

April 6, 2016

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What We Will Discuss Today



- Ethics
- Accountability & Internal Control
- Audits
 - Internal Audits
 - External Audits
 - Sponsored Projects Audits
 - Audit Red Flags
- Cost Allowability and Cost Transfers
- Audit Findings

- Fraud
 - o Why Do We Care?
 - Forms of Fraud
 - O Who Commits Fraud?
 - Risk ManagementProgram
 - Your Role
- Resources

Ethics



Definition

- A system of guiding principles
- The principles or expectations of conduct governing the behavior of an individual or a group

Ethics



- UC Statement of Ethical Values
- UC Standards of Ethical Conduct
- UC Faculty Code of Conduct





University of California

Statement of Ethical Values

Members of the University of California community are committed to the highest ethical standards in furtherance of our mission of teaching, research and public service. We recognize that we hold the University in trust for the people of the State of California. Our policies, procedures, and standards provide guidance for application of the ethical values stated below in our daily life and work as members of this community.

We are committed to:

Integrity

We will conduct ourselves with integrity in our dealings with and on behalf of the University.

Excellence

We will conscientiously strive for excellence in our work.

Accountability

We will be accountable as individuals and as members of this community for our ethical conduct and for compliance with applicable laws and University policies and directives.

Respect

We will respect the rights and dignity of others.

Accountability & Internal Control



Accountability for financial purposes is the delegation of authority to qualified persons to initiate, approve, process, and review business transactions and the holding of those persons responsible for the validity, correctness, and appropriateness of their actions.

Accountability & Internal Control



Internal control systems comprise the methods and procedures that serve to safeguard University assets; ensure the accuracy, reliability, and timeliness of financial reporting; promote compliance with policies, procedures, regulations, and laws; and further the effectiveness and efficiency of operations. Properly implemented internal controls provide reasonable assurance that only appropriate transactions are authorized, executed, and recorded, and that any errors are detected in a timely manner.

Types of Audits Conducted at UCSB



Internal Audits

 Performed by UCSB Audit & Advisory Services

Annual Financial Audit

 Currently performed by KPMG, the CPA firm engaged by the UC Regents

Types of Audits Conducted at UCSB



Federal audits are mostly by sponsoring agencies (e.g. DOD, NIH, NSF) and include:

- Campus-wide audits
- Contract proposal audits (specific award)
- Contract close-out audits (specific award)

State Audits are performed by:

- California State Auditor
- State Department of Finance
- State Board of Equalization

External Audit Coordination



- Notices of external audits received by UCSB personnel should be referred to Audit & Advisory Services, which is responsible for the coordination of external audit activities. Audit & Advisory Services will coordinate with department personnel to ensure the external auditors receive all required assistance and information.
- It is UCSB's policy to fully comply with all administrative, financial, and audit requirements that arise from its role as a recipient of public and other extramural funds, and to cooperate fully with external auditors.

External Audit Coordination



 If your department is contacted by an external agency, please contact the Director of Audit and Advisory Services or the External Audit Coordinator listed on the contacts section of our web page: www.audit.ucsb.edu/contacts

 Please also see a list of frequently asked questions on our web page:

www.audit.ucsb.edu/our-services/external-auditcoordination

WHAT DO INTERNAL AUDITORS LOOK FOR?

Types of Internal Audits



Audit and Advisory Services conducts:

- Operational Audits Focus on efficiency and effectiveness, the adequacy of processes and controls, and other areas.
- Compliance Audits Assess compliance with regulations, policies, procedures, contracts, grants, etc.

Sponsored projects audits can be either type, or a combination of both.



OMB Uniform Guidance

In December 2013, the White House Office of Management and Budget issued Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. This guidance combines eight previous OMB circulars covering the areas of administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements.



OMB Uniform Guidance

The Uniform Guidance contains administrative management standards for research grants. A partial list of areas covered includes financial and budgetary control systems, financial reporting requirements, procurement, property management standards, cost sharing/monitoring/reporting, program performance, and close-out.



OMB Uniform Guidance

Direct Costs are those that can be identified specifically with a particular sponsored project. Costs incurred for the same purpose in like circumstances must be treated consistently as either direct or indirect costs. Costs normally treated as direct costs for research projects include:

- PI summer salary, technical staff salaries, & travel
- Scientific equipment & lab supplies
- Long distance telephone charges
- Animals & animal care costs



OMB Uniform Guidance

Indirect Costs are those that benefit federally sponsored research but cannot be specifically and readily identified with a particular sponsored project. Costs normally treated as indirect costs include:

- Salaries of administrative & clerical staff
- Office supplies, postage, & reproduction costs
- Telephone equipment & local call charges
- Memberships in scientific & professional organizations



OMB Uniform Guidance

The uniform guidance also requires independent, regularly scheduled audits of federally funded research and student financial aid programs. Annual audits include reviews of internal controls and compliance tests of financial activity. The annual audits at UC campuses are performed by the University's public accountants.

WHERE THINGS GO WRONG

With Sponsored Projects

Audit Red Flags



- Cost overruns & cost transfers
- Inadequate documentation of costs
- Recharge activities with financial surpluses
- Costs incurred outside of funding period
- Recharge rates not approved or not applied consistently to all users

Audit Red Flags



- Object coding errors
- Unallowable costs charged to a project
- Effort Reporting not properly certified or filed timely
- Technical reports not filed on time



Cost Allowability

Most common costs of doing business are allowable charges to sponsored projects. Salaries & benefits, laboratory supplies, toll calls, travel, and scientific equipment are all allowable.



The following are expressly <u>unallowable</u> charges to Federally sponsored projects:

- Entertainment, social, & alumni activity expenses
- Alcoholic beverages
- Memberships in civic, community, or social organizations
- Donations/contributions & fines/penalties
- Airfare costs in excess of lowest available airfare
- Fundraising & commencement expenses
- Lobbying or other expenses related to political activities
- Travel related to unallowable activities (e.g., social/ fundraising)
- Advertising, public relations, & interest expenses (certain types of these costs are allowable)



Cost Allowability

Costs that may require sponsor approval:

- Costs incurred before the agreement effective date
- Office furniture and general purpose equipment
- Research & scientific equipment
- Equipment purchased within 120 days of the award end date may be questioned in the event of an audit



Cost Transfers

Most cost transfers occur when goods or services originally paid for under one account/fund are subsequently transferred to another account/fund.

They are highly suspect during an audit.



Cost Transfers

Cost transfers involving federal funds should be <u>avoided</u> altogether or kept to a minimum. Expenses should be charged directly to the accounts and funds to which they pertain whenever possible.

Cost transfers must be <u>fully explained</u>, <u>justified</u> and <u>approved</u>. Supporting documents such as vendor invoices, recharge statements, employee time worked records, and Effort Reporting information should be on file with the transfer forms.



Cost Transfers

Cost transfers must be approved by the <u>principal investigator</u>, <u>department chair</u>, or other <u>academic administrator</u>.

Cost transfers must be processed within 120 days of the date of the original charge. Exceptions require an additional explanation and approval for the delay.

Federal regulations <u>prohibit</u> transfers of costs to federal awards in order to eliminate overdrafts, to expend unexpended award balances, or without regard to benefit.



Cost Transfers

General Guidelines

There must be detailed backup documentation completely explaining the circumstances for each cost transfer item, regardless of when the transfer is made. Transfers processed more than 120 days after the date of the original charge require additional documentation detailing reasons for the delay and additional high-level managerial and administrative approvals.

Cost transfer certification responsibilities (chairperson, principal investigator, or other academic official) are established by policy/regulations, and cannot be delegated to staff employees.



Cost Transfers

General Guidelines

Cost transfers made within the last 90 days before a contract or grant ends, or after the project expiration date, are <u>very sensitive</u> in the event of an audit.

In these cases, auditors will examine the financial condition of <u>both</u> contracts/grants (i.e., the award funds from which costs are transferred and the award funds to which costs are transferred) in order to determine if there is an unexpended balance on one award, and an overdraft on the other. If this is the case, adequate documentation becomes virtually impossible.

Adverse Audit Findings – Questioned Costs



Questioned costs are likely to be the major financial issue resulting from an audit, and generally relate to the following:

Unallowable Costs are costs specifically not allowed under the general and specific requirements or conditions of the award.

Undocumented Costs are costs charged to an award for which detailed documentation does not exist.

Unapproved Costs are costs for which the award requires approval and no evidence of approval can be found, and the costs are not included in the award budget.

Potential Impacts of Adverse Audit Findings



Cost Disallowances

Errors in financial transactions found in a federal audit may result in a <u>disallowance</u> of the costs involved. Such disallowances are subject to reimbursement to the federal agency from *departmental fund sources*.

A relatively <u>small number of errors</u> found in an audit sample of financial entries of a particular type may be *projected* over the total population of similar entries to develop an audit finding which may translate into a *very large cost disallowance*.

Potential Impacts of Adverse Audit Findings



Cost Disallowances

Federal auditors have started to use data mining and analytical tools to examine financial data.

This means that there is potential for every transaction to receive at least some level of scrutiny during an audit.

Avoiding Audit Problems

Audit & Advisory Services

- Documents supporting all financial activity should be complete, properly approved, & retained for at least three years following project completion.
- Financial activity should be actively monitored & compared to project budgets to avoid cost overruns. Pls should be kept informed of the financial status of their projects on a regular basis.
- Charges to a contract/grant must (1) represent costs incurred to benefit the specific project, (2) be reasonable costs of performing the award work, (3) be consistent with the project budget, and (4) be allowable under federal costing guidelines.

Avoiding Audit Problems



- Cost transfers should be avoided. When absolutely necessary to transfer costs between projects, transfer policy requirements should be strictly followed.
- Required reports should be filed on a timely basis.

When in doubt, seek assistance.

- Refer to policies, procedures, and other references, including on-line information sources.
- Contact Extramural Funds staff in Business & Financial Services or the Office of Research.

FRAUD

Why Do We Care?



The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) 2012 Global Fraud Study

 ACFE conducted a study of 1,388 cases of occupational fraud that occurred worldwide between January 2012 and December 2013.



Source: Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE)



- Survey participants estimated that the typical organization loses 5% of its annual revenue to fraud. Applied to the 2013 Gross World Product, this figure translates to a potential projected annual fraud loss of more than \$3.7 trillion.
- The median loss caused by the occupational fraud cases in the study was \$140,000. More than one-fifth of these cases caused losses of at least \$1 million.
- The frauds lasted a median of 18 months before being detected.



- If the ACFE survey participant estimate is extrapolated for UCSB, that would mean a loss of \$43,460,350* for fiscal year 2012-13.
- If the estimate is extrapolated for the UC system, that would mean a loss of \$1,256,398,000** in fiscal year 2012-13.
 - There is no reason to believe that the amount would hold true for UC, but it does give us reason to redouble our efforts to prevent fraud.

^{*}Based on total income figures from the 2013-2014 UCSB Campus Profile

^{**}Based on total revenue figures from the UC Revenue and Expense Trends Report



Other Costs of Fraud

- Reputation of the Institution
- Employee Morale
- Costs of Human Resources and Investigations

Fraud Undermines Every Aspect of the

University's Mission:

- Teaching
- Research
- Public Service



- All types of organizations have fraud; we are not excluded because we have an important or worthy mission.
- The University has a responsibility to manage the funds of the people of California, students, and governmental funding and contracting agencies, consistent with policies and agreements made to stakeholders.
- Auditing Standards and Requirements Internal and Industry



- Subject to audit and investigation by outside organizations
 - 1. Inspector General
 - 2. California State Auditor
 - 3. Federal, state, local, and private funding agencies
 - 4. Various other parties with interest
 - Possible penalties and loss of funds

FRAUD

Forms of Fraud



Conflict of Interest

- UCSB Accountability and Internal Control Policy 5101 section II
 D: A financial conflict of interest exists when an employee
 initiates, influences, authorizes, or approves a business decision
 that results in a financial benefit to the employee, a relative of
 the employee, a business associate or personal friend of the
 employee, or a business or investment in which the employee is
 associated.
- Institute of Internal Auditors: Conflict of interest is any relationship that is, or appears to be, not in the best interest of the organization.



Bribery

California Penal Code 641.3:

Any employee who solicits, accepts, or agrees to accept money or any thing of value from a person other than his or her employer, other than in trust for the employer, corruptly and without the knowledge or consent of the employer, in return for using or agreeing to use his or her position for the benefit of that other person, and any person who offers or gives an employee money or any thing of value under those circumstances, is guilty of commercial bribery.



Illegal Gratuities

 Definition: Illegal gratuities are similar to bribery but the payment is after the act and acts as a reward for the act. It creates an expectation of a reward for similar acts that benefit the payer.



Economic Extortion

Definition: This contrasts with illegal gratuities and bribery in that the extorter demands payment for official actions. Extortion is the obtaining of property from another, with his consent, or the obtaining of an official act of a public officer, induced by a wrongful use of force or fear, or under color of official right.



Cash Receipts and Disbursements

Payroll

- Time and Leave Reports
- Expense Reimbursement Schemes
- Check Tampering





- Non-Cash
 - Misuse
 - Larceny (The wrongful taking and carrying away of the personal goods of another from his or her possession with intent to convert them to the taker's own use)
- Billing
 - Improper Charging of Contracts and Grants



- Financial (asset and revenue overstatement and understatement)
- Non-Financial
 - Time Theft (excessive internet use, etc.)
 - Employment Credentials (employment application, social security number, references, job references, etc.)
 - Documentation (references over or under stating performance, forging contract signatures, signing something you are not authorized to sign, status and performance reports, altering documents inappropriately, etc.)

Question



A friend who does not work for the University asks you to write a reference letter on University letterhead. You do not supervise or have the authority to evaluate this person. Is it appropriate to use University letterhead in this manner?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. I need more information.

Question



One fund is closing out and has funds remaining. You are asked to transfer charges from another project to this fund to "use up the funds." You know these charges have nothing to do with the fund that is being charged. Is this appropriate?

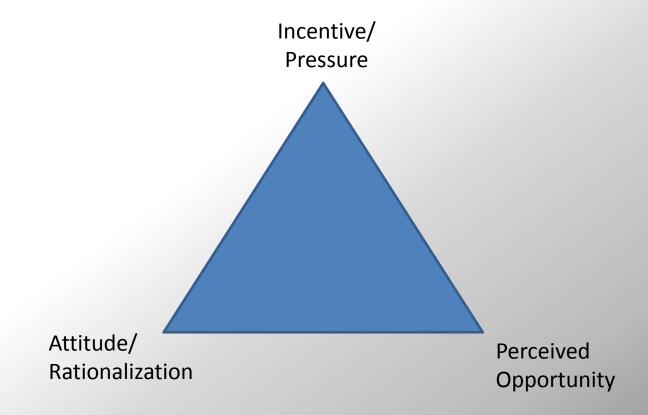
- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. I need more information.

FRAUD

Who Commits Fraud?



The Fraud Triangle





- Incentive/Pressure
 - Habitual criminal who steals for the sake of stealing
 - Personal prestige, goal achievement
 - Morally superior, justified in making others victims
 - Desperate need for money
 - Vices such as gambling/drugs



- Perceived Opportunity
 - Weak internal controls
 - Circumvention of internal controls
 - The greater the position, the greater the trust and exposure to unprotected assets
 - "Most Trusted Employee"



Attitude/Rationalization

Top Ten Rationalizations for Committing Fraud

- 1. I need it more than the other person.
- 2. I'm borrowing and will pay it back later.
- 3. Everybody does it.
- 4. The University is so big that it won't even be missed.
- 5. Nobody will get hurt
- 6. I deserve it.
- 7. It's for the greater good.
- 8. I'm not paid enough.
- 9. It's just part of the job.
- 10. I'm not gaining personally.



Honesty Scale

Completely Dishonest Completely Honest

Pressure Attitude Opportunity



- Why are people honest?
 - Beliefs
 - Perceptions & Attitudes
 - Organizational Culture
 - No Reason to be Dishonest
 - Lack of or Inadequate
 Opportunity
 - Fear





Conditions that Contribute to Fraud

- Poor Internal Controls
- Inadequate Staff/Resources
- Inadequate Pay
- Low Loyalty
- Poor Promotion Opportunities



Organizational Red Flags

- Bad "Tone at the Top"
- No Communication of Expectations
- Too Much Trust in Key Employees
- Lack of Proper Authorization Procedures
- Lack of Attention to Detail
- Poor Segregation of Duties
- Tendency Toward Crisis Management

FRAUD

Risk Management Program



Organizational Culture

- Define Acceptable Behavior
 - Employees, vendors, contractors, and others need to know what is allowed and not allowed.
 - Make sure employees and managers know the rules.
 - Make sure vendors, contractors, and other third parties know restrictions on gifts and entertainment.
 - Consider discussing our codes of conduct when entering into agreements with third parties.



Organizational Culture

- Clarify Expectations
 - Laws and Regulations
 - Statement of Ethical Values
 - UC Code of Conduct
 - Faculty Code of Conduct

- Policies and Procedures
- Job Descriptions
- Whistleblower Policy
- Training on All of the Above



Controls

Preventive Controls

- Tone at the Top
- Good Management
- Policies and Procedures
- Clear Roles and Responsibilities
- Segregation of Duties

- Proper Management Review and Approval
- Systems
- Risk Assessments
- Audits
- Training



What Prevents Controls From Working?

- Not questioning the strange, odd, and curious
- Employees don't understand policies, procedures, and reports
- Employees don't have the information needed to ensure transactions are proper
- Not enough time to do the control procedures



What Prevents Controls From Working?

- Blind trust
- The process mentality
- Not enforcing documentation requirements
- Inadequate fraud prevention and detection skills
- Those responsible for control procedures override controls



Resources Committed to Fraud Prevention, Detection, and Response

- UCSB Police Department
- Audit and Advisory Services & UC Whistleblower Program
- Human Resources
- Academic Personnel
- Business and Financial Services
- Office of Research
- Environmental Health and Safety/Risk Management
- Office of Equal Opportunity and Sexual Harassment/Title IX Compliance
- Campus General Counsel

FRAUD

Your Role



Resources Committed to Fraud Prevention, Detection, and Response

- All UC Employees!
 - To begin, act ethically and encourage ethical behavior in your colleagues, vendors, and contractors.
 - Fraud Training
 - Reporting Channels



- Ability to Report Without Fear of Reprisal
 - Whistleblower Protection Policy/Procedure:

"The University of California is committed to providing a work environment where employees are free to report suspected Improper Governmental Activity or conditions that significantly threaten the health or safety of employees or the public without fear of retribution and where employees can be candid and honest without reservation in conducting the University's business. This policy is a companion to the University of California Policy on Reporting and Investigating Allegations of Suspected Improper Governmental Activities (the University's Whistleblower Policy)."



Deciding When to Escalate an Issue

- Employees should report suspected improper governmental activities to their supervisor, administrator, or the LDO.
- If the employee has reservations about reporting to their supervisor, they should report to another appropriate administrator, supervisor, the LDO, or the Whistleblower hotline.



When Supervisors should Escalate an Issue

- Supervisors and managers should be aware of formal and informal communications that might constitute a report of a suspected improper governmental activity and use appropriate judgment regarding which matters should be escalated.
- Supervisors and managers should file a Whistleblower report or contact the LDO if:
 - Your actions in dealing with a matter are outside of your normal supervisorial scope.
 - Your management actions begin to resemble an investigation.
- If you are unsure, you should err on the side of reporting to the Whistleblower hotline, the Whistleblower Complaint Investigator, or the LDO.

RESOURCES



Resources



Whistleblower Resources

- Vice Chancellor Administrative Services: <u>http://www.vcadmin.ucsb.edu</u>
- Audit and Advisory Services: http://www.audit.ucsb.edu
- Whistleblower:
- http://www.vcadmin.ucsb.edu/whistleblower
- Whistleblower Hotline: http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/hotline
- Whistleblower Hotline Phone:
 800-403-4744



Resources



Contacts

- Marc Fisher, Vice Chancellor Administrative Services, Locally Designated Official Ext. 3132
- Robert Tarsia, Director, Audit and Advisory Services Ext. 4080
- John Kushwara, Senior Investigator Ext. 4335
- Jim Corkill, Controller and Director, Business and Financial Services Ext. 5882
- Cynthia Seneriz, Acting HR Director Ext. 8137
- Cindy Doherty, Academic Personnel Director Ext. 8332
- Joe Incandela, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research Ext. 8270
- John Sterritt, Director, Environmental Health and Safety Ext. 2040
- Ricardo Alcaíno, Director, Equal Opportunity and Sexual Discrimination Prevention
 Ext. 4504
- Ariana Alvarez, Director and Title IX Officer, Title IX and Sexual Harassment Policy Compliance Office - Ext. 2546
- Dustin Olson, Chief of Police, UCSB Police Department Ext. 4151
- Nancy Hamill, Chief Campus Counsel Ext. 3459



Resources



Policies

- Statement of Ethical Values
- UC Standards of Ethical Conduct
- Faculty Code of Conduct
- UC Whistleblower Policy
- UC Whistleblower Protection Policy
- Conflict of Interest
 - Standards of Ethical Conduct 6. Conflicts of Interest or Commitment
 - UC Personnel Policies for Staff Members 82 Conflict of Interest
 - UC Business and Finance Bulletin G-39 Conflict of Interest Policy
 - UC Business and Finance Bulletin 43 Materiel Management
- Use of University Resources
 - Standards of Ethical Conduct 10. Use of University Resources
 - o Personnel Policies for Staff Members 31, 32, 33
 - Electronic Communications Policy and Local Implementing Procedures
 - Policies Applying to Campus Activities, Organizations and Students 40.00 Policy on Use of University Properties
 - Business and Finance Bulletin 29 Management and Control of University Equipment, Section XIII Personal Use of Property
 - Business and Finance Bulletin 65 Guidelines for University Mail Services
- Exercising Official Duties
 - Business and Finance Bulletin 43 Materiel Management



Sources



- Report to the Nations on Occupational Fraud and Abuse: 2012 Global Fraud Study
 - The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE)
 - Full report available at ACFE.com
- International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing & Glossary
 - The Institute of Internal Auditors

Evaluation



Please visit our website and complete a course evaluation:

http://www.audit.ucsb.edu/about-us/evaluationpresentations-and-training