

## FDP Q&A

- Are there any plans to expand Administrator role permissions to assist with account email address changes or corrections?  
Answer: Currently, NSF do not have any plans to expand the administrator role.
- Is there a role that can be used to View All submitted proposals but not have any editing rights (for senior leadership)? If not now, is one coming?  
Answer: There is not a role that will allow a user to view all but not edit submitted or in-progress shared proposals for that organization. There are no plans to add new role for viewing proposals only.
- Do the optional elements adjust according to the requirements of the specific solicitation?  
Answer: Not yet. NSF is looking into enabling the "required" and "optional" sections based on the solicitation.
- Will there be any accommodation in the validations to allow for slight 'bleed' of figures into the margins? We received a 'warning' about the fonts...still submitted but wondered if this is something that Research.gov validations would address or leave as a warning?  
Answer: For margins, we do not allow any deviations from the PAPPG and will not be making any changes to the current validations in place.
- Will Fastlane submittals phase out?  
Answer: Yes, we are working on implementing a ramp-up strategy that will increase proposal submissions in Research.gov
- Any plans to accept Collaborators and Other Affiliations templates that have been edited in applications other than Microsoft Excel? My faculty end up with blank COA files if they edit the file in Google Sheets or OpenOffice, even if it's saved as an .XLS file.  
Answer: At the present time, NSF will only accept excel files for COA documents.
- Can budgets be uploaded as xls or csv files?  
Answer: No
- We have seen margin errors and header warnings when uploading sciENCv bio sketches and the fillable bio sketch pdf, will those be fixed by October 5th?  
Answer: As of 10/5/2020, there will no longer be warnings if the approved formats for Biosketch and Current and Pending Support documents are used. Please note that modifying the file generated by SciencV may cause our system to not recognize the format.
- Will the demo site be set up to allow test submissions to be submitted through Grants.gov and then displayed on the demo site?  
Answer: Before we decommission FastLane proposal features, we will provide an ability for both production and test proposals to be accessed in Research.gov.
- Last time I submitted in research.gov it told me not to have number numbering in the documents. However, the PAPPG tells us to put in page numbers. Which should we do?

Answer: Do not add page numbers to your documents. When Research.gov converts your document into a complied PDF, it will paginate automatically.

- [What is the timeline for implementing Phase 1? Is it imminent?](#)

Answer: Yes, the Biological Sciences Directorate already moved their core no-deadline solicitations to Research.gov and has removed FastLane as a submission system option. The solicitations have been posted.

- [Our faculty are reluctant to use Research.gov because they are used to Fastlane. It would be helpful to have a target retirement date for Fastlane so we can make efforts to train faculty, even if the actual retirement date changes down the road.](#)

Answer: While, we do not have a retirement date for the FastLane proposal preparation system however, we are encouraging our research community to start making the transition now.

- [Please clarify that NSF-approved formats for the Bio and C&P is effective for proposals submitted "on" and after Oct 5, thanks](#)

Answer: Yes, NSF will enforce the use of an NSF approved format for Biosketch and Current and Pending Support documents starting 10/5.

- [\(This question may reveal my ignorance\): How can the PI delegate the ability to work on the proposal to a staff assistant?](#)

Answer: To delegate proposal preparation to the organization's administrative staff: On the main proposal page, under the "proposal actions" section, there is a button titled "Share Proposal with SPO/AOR". By clicking that button, you will be able to change proposal access for your SPO/AOR. By default no access is granted, but here you can choose to grant them view only, edit only, or edit and submit permissions.

To delegate proposal preparation to an individual: You can add an "Other Authorized User" (OAU) to work on your proposal. To add an OAU, click on "Manage Personnel and Subaward Organization", click on "Manage Personnel" for the organization, click on "Add Other Authorized User", and then add the OAU by NSF ID or email address.

- [Will s2s submissions work better with Research.gov than s2s submissions worked with FastLane?](#)

Answer: S2S submissions will work the same as it does now. Before decommissioning FastLane proposal features, we will provide similar integration in Research.gov.

- [Are there any plans to allow an AOR or other delegate to initiate a proposal on behalf of a PI as is currently possible for most other federal sponsors?](#)

Answer: No, however, the NSF policy office is considering this option.

- [SPO and AOR have editing/submit rights...we are looking for a role with no edit or submit rights....just the ability to see/view all submitted proposals but have no ability to change/submit like the SPO/AOR can](#)

Answer: Research.gov do not have a user role that will allow a user to view all proposals, but not edit submitted or in-progress shared proposals for that organization. There are no plans to add new role for viewing proposals only.

Note: PIs may grant view only access to administrative staff, however if edit access is granted, all individuals with that role can edit.

- Are there plans to add wording addressing the new RPPR Current and Pending requirements to the "About Project Reports" page on the Research.gov site?

Answer: Thank you for the suggestion. We will make such updates in the near future.

- Do they expect the draft PAPPG 21-1 to be released in the federal register? Is the timing different this year?

Answer: Yes, targeting November 2020

- As budget entries must be "put in," can the relevant numbers be dragged and dropped, or must all numbers be re-typed?

Answer: No, you cannot drag and drop entered values from other fields in the budget section however, you can either copy and paste or re-enter the values.

- PDs have been telling PIs to submit to multiple directorates/programs when research.gov doesn't allow it, will those restrictions in research.gov be loosened?

Answer: The units of consideration are driven by the solicitation requirements and Research.gov will allow as many as the solicitation allows.

- Can there be more than one AOR on proposals?

Answer: Yes, there can be multiple AORs on a proposal and it is dependent upon how the institution handles their proposal processing. When an organization registers with NSF, they will add all the SPO/AORs for that organization. When the PI is ready to share the proposal with the SPO/AOR, Research.gov will send an automated email to all SPO/AORs associated with that organization.