1. Sustainable Research Excellence (SRE) – Researcher Surveys

HELP, TOOLS AND TIPS
Please see this section for useful contacts, tools and tips.
1. SUSTAINABLE RESEARCH EXCELLENCE (SRE) – RESEARCHER SURVEYS

WHO NEEDS TO READ THIS?
Curtin staff on University payroll who are undertaking research.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?
Several surveys are going to be conducted in the first half of 2010 to collect information on the amount of time that academic staff spend on research. Curtin is required to conduct these surveys in order to access Commonwealth block funding. ORD will identify who needs to complete the survey so you will only receive the survey if it is relevant to you.

Background
The Sustainable Research Excellence (SRE) fund is a new research block grant which is designed to increase the funding of indirect costs associated with Australian Competitive Grant (ACG) research in addition to that provided by the Research Infrastructure Block Grant (RIBG). The SRE is administered by the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR).

Transparent Costing (TC) is a component of the SRE. The TC, which is a framework for determining the indirect costs associated with ACG research, has two components:

- A set of allowable indirect costs; and
- An indirect cost driver to support the calculation of the proportion of indirect costs incurred by universities attributable to ACGs.

The indirect cost driver will be informed by staff time allocation surveys.

$510 million in funding will be available over four years under the SRE program to help meet shortfalls in funding the indirect costs of research. For Curtin to access 80% of available funds we are required to participate in Transparent Costing.

Staff Time Allocation Surveys
As part of the TC, two Staff Time Allocation Surveys will be conducted by Curtin, under tight deadlines from DIISR.

Most Universities will conduct 4 surveys (2 non-teaching and 2 teaching weeks). However to minimise the impact on staff, we have decided to restrict the surveys to two (involving a teaching and non-teaching week for each survey). It is imperative for research staff to meet their submission deadlines to enable the compilation of data to be submitted to DIISR within the required timeframe.

All survey information is based on requirements by DIISR. No personal information (only aggregated data) will be submitted to DIISR.

Who is affected?
This survey is intended for Curtin staff on University payroll who are undertaking research. DIISR had originally requested survey on Australian Competitive Grant researchers, however the scope has now been extended.

Holders of emeritus, adjunct or honorary positions, APAI scholarship holders, technical and administrative support staff are exempt from participation

What are the dates of the surveys?

1st Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non teaching week</td>
<td>22nd to 28th February 2010 (Mon to Sun)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching week</td>
<td>1st to 7th March 2010 (Mon to Sun)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for Staff submission to R&amp;D</td>
<td>12th March 2010</td>
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2nd Survey

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non teaching week</td>
<td>31st May to 6th June 2010 (Mon to Sun)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching week</td>
<td>7th to 13th June 2010 (Mon to Sun)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for Staff submission to R&amp;D</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
HELP, TOOLS and TIPS

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For more information on Research at Curtin please visit the research website www.research.curtin.edu.au

TOOLS AND TIPS

LINKS
Community of Science (COS)
www.cos.com – for funding opportunities

Research Project Application Tool (RPAT)
http://research.curtin.edu.au/guides/tools.cfm

New Research Codes
The codes can be found on the ABS website
You may also find the University of New England’s Conversion Tool useful.

TIP OF THE WEEK
Preparing for RPI
In preparation for RPI next year, it is important to ensure that all of your 2009 publications and research funding has been entered into the SCRIPT database. By entering them in before the end of 2009 the amount of work that needs to be done in the lead up to RPI claims will be reduced.

For more information on RPI please see -
http://research.curtin.edu.au/rpi/rpi.cfm