

Bob Buchanan completes 15 years as A&S Associate Dean for Research



I started in the A&S Research Office as an intern under Professor Jayanthi, who was the Associate Dean for Research 2006. In July 2007, I was appointed the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies. At that time the office had a part-time assistant. I handled all of the budget development and budget review, compliance matters, and basically everything associated with grants and contracts. Over several years, and with the support of Deans Hudson and Ferre', I added more staff to the office, for a total four staff members. Currently, the Research Office has three staff members who handle the preparation and review of budgets and institutional documents required for submission of grants and contracts to the Office of Sponsored Programs. I held the title of Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies until 2011, when

Wendy Pfeffer took over the duties as the Assistance Dean for Graduate Studies. I continued to serve as Associate Dean for Research until July 1, 2021.

During my tenure in the A&S Dean's Office I have handled many duties, including oversight of everything thing related to grant preparation, grant submission, and post award grant management (~200 annually). From 2007-2017, I was the co-supervisor of the SRB, along with my counterpart in Speed. I served as a liaison for the Dean's Office on all new program and center proposals (helping with budget preparation and funding) submitted to the Provost Office for review and approval. Since 2007, I have handled all university scholar nominations and reappointments for A&S faculty. Up to the time Dean Leonard joined the College, I successfully handled all of the startup negotiations for the College with the EVPRI Office (Martin, Martinez and Pierce). I also handled all of the Distinguished Faculty Award nominations (between 2007-2018) and worked with the President's Office to facilitate review of A&S faculty nominees. From 2007-2020, I served as liaison to the A&S Research Committee and initiated grant competitions involving graduate students as well as faculty. I worked with SIGS to establish the graduate student grant writing academy. Also I played an important role in securing federal earmark funds through Senator McConnell's and Congressman Yarmouth's Office. One such appropriation led to the establishment of the Atmospheric Sciences program and degree in the College. Another included the acquisition of an NMR and EPR spectrometer through the DoD in Chemistry. During my time as Research Dean, research funding from federal and state sources has oscillated between \$5-6 million annually. This oscillation is directly related to the periodic loss of research active faculty with large grants that moved to other institutions. I am proud that during my time as Research Dean more non-science faculty have sought and secured funds to support their research through grant applications.

Over the past fifteen years, I have served on many important task forces related to research at UofL. I am a founding member of the Conflict Review Board that handles issues related to conflict of interest, as well as other important institutional compliance matters. A more recent and notable task force I served on was charged with establishing university guidelines for safely closing and reopening laboratories during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the year 2020, members of the COVID-19 Task Force met daily via Teams, and I coordinated the efforts to open all A & S laboratories. I was one of three Associate Deans

who served on this task force with other university officials and representatives from environment health and safety offices. Over the course of my tenure as Research Dean, I have worked closely with the EVPRI Office to draft and implement grant, contract and institutional policies related research. I worked on streamlining the electronic submission process, and negotiated use of PRIF to pay summer salaries. Over the years, I worked with my staff to create all of the policies related to preparation and submission of A&S grants. It is noteworthy that during my tenure as Associate Research Dean, no A&S faculty member or department has been involved in audit problems related grants or contracts whenever funds needed to be returned to the sponsor.

Partial List of Responsibilities for the Arts and Sciences Associate Dean for Research

1. Review Proposal Clearance Forms prior to signing off. ~ 200 annually.
2. Review and approve PCFs, budgets, budget justifications from other Units that include A&S Faculty. ~30 annually.
3. Meet individually or with small groups of A&S Faculty concerning funding opportunities with Foundations, Industries, etc. ~10 times per year as requested by faculty
4. Periodically review Budget Projections on faculty grants nearing completion with Research Office staff.
5. Supervise Research Office staff and hold weekly staff meetings.
6. Participate in Council of Research Deans meetings involving other Research Deans and members of the EVPRI Office.
7. Participate as a member of the Conflict Review Board.
8. Liaison between A&S research faculty, staff, graduate students and the Sponsored Programs Office, ongoing weekly.
9. Mediate conflicts between faculty within A&S and other units related to research.
10. Work with the EVPRI Office and/or Sponsored Programs to resolve grant/contract related issues.
11. Keep informed on new policies and procedures, guidelines issued by Sponsored Programs Administration.
12. Assist in creating staff process guides when new policy and procedures are implemented by Sponsored Programs.
13. Assist Dr. Susan Ryan with AWP's when needed.
14. Provide consultation to EVPRI for upcoming changes to policies and procedures.
15. Serve on EVPRI hiring committees when requested.
16. Assist EVPRI with external Funding compliance and audit resolutions.