

# Academic Affairs

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# Research Process Taskforce

- In the 2012 – 2013 Academic Year, a Research Process Review Team identified a series of research support issues
- In September of 2013, a Research Process Taskforce (research support staff, faculty, and administrators) began resolving these issues
- The taskforce met every two to four weeks over the 2013 – 2014 academic year
- Here I summarize two of the pressing issues addressed by the taskforce and the resolutions they reached

# **Issue 1: Need quick and easy access to institutional information**

**Resolution:** A research portal (a tab in myNMSU) constructed by ICT in collaboration with the Office of the Vice President for Research with links to frequently needed information.

# Research tab information includes:

- Fringe rate
- Facilities and Administration rate
- Per diem rates
- Mileage rate
- Purchase order and procurement card limits
- Reports with award and index balances
- Reports of expiring funds
- Recent transactions

## **Issue 2:** Research Support Services are an unwieldy bureaucracy of multiple offices with overlapping functions

**Resolution:** Create Institution of Shared Service Centers, one stop shops where Principal Investigators can receive help and advice on pre-award functions, post-award functions, and hiring functions, and where the staff have signature authority. First center will open in the College of Arts and Sciences on March 1, 2015.

# Other Issues Addressed by Taskforce

- Travel policies and reimbursement
- Competitive pay for research assistants, postdocs, and research faculty
- Purchasing approval processes
- Creation of index numbers
- Communication of research compliance procedures and authorizations