At this time, ORSP, Grants Accounting, and other business units are conducting business as usual for research administration.

There is not yet any federal-wide or state-wide guidance published regarding the effects of the evolving COVID-19 response on recipients’ ability to fulfill our programmatic and administrative obligations.

As such, we are relying on individual sponsors’ websites and list serves for updates on the agency-specific responses/plans regarding submission deadlines, reporting deadlines, work stoppages or slow-downs, and possible project period extensions.

Do not hesitate to contact your Pre-Award Specialist or Award Manager with any questions or concerns about your awards or proposals.

MTSU’s response plan at this time does not impose any limits on the conduct of research and other sponsored work other than the 1) out-of-state travel cancellation, and 2) unavailability of undergraduate student workers. Please know that MTSU’s generous continuation of wages for undergraduate students who are unable to report for work is not an allowable expense for sponsored projects, and will not be charged to your grants.

While individual agencies may ultimately allow compensation paid during work stoppages, we do not expect that to be a state-wide or federal-wide response. Additionally, in those cases where the compensation is allowed, we have no indication that additional funding will be available to pay for the effort necessary to fulfill the project once work resumes. If grant-funded student workers do report for work, their time should be reported and charged to the grant. Also, pursuant to the message from Human Resources on the matter, graduate student assistants must report to work in order to receive compensation, in the form of wages or stipend, and to continue to qualify for tuition assistance.

ORSP recommends that faculty with active or planned work with federal agencies periodically visit the Council on Government Relations’ (COGR) comprehensive directory to federal agency guidance during the public health emergency: Institutional and Agency Responses to COVID-19 and Additional Resources.