

# **RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH WORKSHOP**

**College of Social Science**

**Michigan State University**

**DRAFT**

**1/3/2010**

## **Background**

In August 2007 the U.S. Congress passed and the President signed the *America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science Act* (P.L. 110-69) (a.k.a. COMPETES). Section 7009 of this *Act* requires the National Science Foundation (NSF) to develop a protocol that ensures that anyone receiving support from the Foundation for educational programs, science, or engineering research provides “appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research to participating undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers.”<sup>1</sup> Beginning January 4, 2010, the NSF requires any institution submitting a grant proposal to the Foundation certify that it has a Section 7009 compliance plan. To meet this requirement, Provost Wilcox and Vice-President Gray asked each MSU unit which seeks NSF funding to ensure and document that the “necessary training and education will be done for students and postdoctoral researchers supported by NSF grants.” They delegated the responsibility for planning and decisions concerning the nature, content and extent of training to the department, graduate programs and other academic units for managing NSF project.

Following a discussion with and the consent of the College Social Science Chairs and Directors, the Dean of the College directed the College Research Committee to develop a workshop on the Responsible Conduct of Research that would service the interests and needs of all our CSS faculty and students. The Dean asked the Committee to develop a workshop that would represent and advance an ethos shared across the social, behavioral, and economic sciences faculty for conducting research, producing scholarship, and mentoring the next generation of scientists. The Dean also directed the committee to design the workshop to fulfill the requirements adopted by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institute of Health (NIH) and meet the spirit of Provost and Vice-President for Research directive.

While the COMPETES did not specifically mention the National Institutes of Health (NIH), that agency released updated guidelines for training students in the responsible conduct of research in November 2009<sup>2</sup>. Both NSF and NIH guidelines provided parameters for a training program focused on educating the next generation of scientists about the responsible conduct of research. These parameters established what content should be covered, length of training, frequency of retraining, and scope of who should be trained. The Provost and Vice-President expanded the scope of the NSF/NIH requirements by requesting that we ensure that *all* students and university

staff who participate in sponsored research (regardless of the source of support) be similarly trained.

The College of Social Science Research Committee met four times to discuss the available training materials, develop an outline, review materials developed for each section, and establish administrative processes to provide the workshop. Six committee members were selected to develop each of the sections (see 1.b below) identified by the Committee. Each produced a brief document describing the section, listing the section's learning objective, and providing links to additional resources. Workshop materials will be developed during Spring 2010.

### **Outline: Proposed CSS Responsible Conduct of Workshop**

- 1) Initial training
  - a) Reading materials sent to workshop participants (1 hour)
  - b) Participate in workshop (4 hours)<sup>1</sup>
    - i) Research Misconduct
    - ii) Data acquisition, management, sharing, and ownership
    - iii) Conflict of Interest and Commitment
    - iv) Publication practices and responsible authorships
    - v) Mentor/Trainee Responsibilities
    - vi) Peer Review Process
  - c) Complete MSU's IRB Certification (2 hours)
    - i) MSU IRB Tutorial (initial training requirement)
    - ii) Complete any six Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) in the Protection of Human Research Subjects, online modules
  - d) Student review with Faculty advisor (1 hour)
    - i) Faculty reviews research misconduct policy at MSU
    - ii) Discuss issues regarding data acquisition, management, sharing, and ownership
    - iii) Discuss publication practices and responsible authorships
- 2) Annual renewal training
  - a) A bridged reading material sent to those signed up for the initial seminar (30 minutes)
  - b) Workshop (1 hour)
    - i) Update on changes in policies or regulations regarding the six areas discussed during initial workshop
    - ii) Present new cases of violations for discussion
  - c) Complete CITI Training (1.5 hour)
    - i) Renew the CITI, Course in the Protection of Human Research Subjects, online modules (30 minutes)
    - ii) Complete/renew CITI, Responsible Conduct of Research for Science Administrators Gradebook (1 hour)
  - d) Student update with Faculty advisor (1 hour)
    - i) Faculty reviews research misconduct policy at MSU

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<sup>1</sup> Each of the six sections will take an average of 40 minutes to deliver the content and discuss the cases)

- ii) Discuss issues regarding data acquisition, management, sharing, and ownership
- iii) Discuss publication practices and responsible authorships

3) Administration of the Workshop and Certification

- a) Managed by the College's Office for Research Dean; content developed and delivered by College faculty serving on the Research Committee.
- b) Offered up to four times per year (twice during the Fall semester, once in the Spring, and once in early Summer)
- c) The target audience is graduate students; undergraduate students, post-docs, and other research specialists also will need to attend.
- d) Each participant will receive a certification of completion and documentation regarding updating
  - i) Electronic certification will be provided by the College after attending the five hour workshop and evidence of completion of the IRB/CITI training is provided to the Office of the Associate Dean for Research.
  - ii) Annual update to the certification will be provided after attending the workshop and evidence of completion of the proscribed CITI training is provided.
- e) Unit will submit an annual list of faculty who report reviewing RCR materials with their assigned students (data collected as part of the annual graduate student evaluation process)
- f) Committee Chair will certify that student is up-to-date on RCR training before approving thesis or dissertation prospectus (check box added to approval form).