



COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES
EARTH • ENERGY • ENVIRONMENT

Office of Research Administration
Office of Research and Technology Transfer

Dear CSM Research Community:

In an effort to streamline the process and alleviate the concerns surrounding the ‘at-risk’ process to fund pending grants and contracts; ORA and the VPRTT are proposing to amend the process.

The at-risk fund essentially operates as a line-of-credit extended to faculty prior to the receipt of an award. In the past we have asked faculty to supply an account number should the contract or grant eventually not materialize. In reality such cases are rare, in large part due to the vetting of a-risk requests by ORA staff. ORA evaluation of an at-risk request considers:

- Is this a grant or a contract such that pre- award is allowed or is this a contract where sponsor approval is necessary for pre-contract costs?
- Sponsor type (federal or non-federal);
- The actual start date;
- Other analysis includes the amount of the at-risk request;
- Detriment to the project if an at-risk request is not approved;
- Are there negotiation issues for the contract? (Indemnity, law etc.).

Because incidences of at-risk grants or contracts not materializing have historically been small and faculty consternation at supplying an account number substantial, **we have decided to remove the fund guarantee account number from the at-risk form.** The PI will continue to sign the form requesting the at-risk account or continued spending and the request should be endorsed by the Department Head, Center Director or Dean. Ultimately, we are still bound by Chapter 7 of the CSM policies¹ regarding deficit spending; however, should a contract or grant not materialize we will at that point work with the interested parties to reach an agreement on closing the funding gap.

¹ http://inside.mines.edu/UserFiles/File/PoGo/Policies/FIN/FIN_Chapter_7.pdf