

October 6, 2004

To: Deans, Department Chairs and Graduate Coordinators

From: Dianne F. Harrison, Ph.D., Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean, Graduate Studies

The Council of Graduate Schools recently awarded FSU a grant to promote the training of graduate students in the responsible conduct of research (RCR). Through a collaborative effort, the Office of Graduate Studies, the Office of Research, the Council on Research and Creativity, and ODDL will expand FSU's culture of research integrity by offering an inter-disciplinary one-credit hour graduate course that strengthens ethical decision-making in research and creative endeavors, beginning Spring 2005.

Although many assume that RCR applies primarily to behavioral and biomedical sciences, the elements of RCR should be more broadly applied to all disciplines of research and creativity. In support of the diverse graduate educational mission of FSU, we will make the RCR program available to up to 90 students regardless of the students' discipline of study. To ensure that RCR becomes more fully integrated into the culture of FSU, we will also develop a mechanism whereby graduate students will participate in ongoing RCR activities throughout their graduate experience. This will be accomplished by developing a Program for Research Excellence (PRE) modeled after the established and very successful Program for Instructional Excellence (PIE) program at FSU.

In Spring 2005, we will begin offering the RCR one-credit, S/U course that will provide graduate students a practical overview of the rules, regulations, ethics and professional practices that define the responsible conduct of research. The course will explore all nine core instructional areas of RCR. Tuition for this course will be waived, and each student will be provided the course text at no charge.

Consisting of 15 one-hour sessions, each core area of RCR will initially be presented to all course participants during one session (a maximum of 90 students), followed by small group sessions during the following week, at which time the students will be divided into smaller (approximately 30 students each) discipline-based groups: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM); Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS); and Arts and Humanities (AH). These small group sessions will be led by some of Florida State University's most distinguished research faculty from across campus. This will provide students with an opportunity to interact with prominent senior faculty and analyze case studies related to their disciplines. During the intervening week between the large group and small group sessions, students will have web-based access (via Blackboard) to discipline-specific case studies and discussion boards that are centered on the RCR topic just presented. Case studies will be designed to reflect discipline-specific (i.e., STEM, SBS and AH) scenarios. We will maintain a web-based library of these case studies for future use by our program and any interested departments, faculty and students.

Since a maximum of 90 graduate students from departments across campus may enroll Spring 2005, please encourage your students to enroll as soon as possible. Departments will earn FTE based upon the following formula: Three departments, one from each of the discipline-based groups (STEM, SBS, AH) will received the FTE one semester, with a different set of departments earning the FTE the following semester. A one-hour Special Topics course in each of the three selected departments will be designated as *Special Topics: Responsible Research*. The Office of the Registrar will monitor the rotation of departments, so that eventually, all departments benefit from the student enrollment. For Spring 2005, the following departments and course numbers will be used:

Classes meet on Wednesdays from 6:45-7:45 p.m. The first class meeting (January 5, 2005) and all lectures will be held in 021 BEL. Discussion group meeting rooms are listed below.

Physical Sciences/Math: BCH 5887[2], reference number 08566
(This section will meet on alternate Wednesdays in BEL 033)

Social/Behavioral Sciences: ACG 5935[1], reference number 08568
(This section will meet on alternate Wednesdays in BEL 105A)

Arts/Humanities: DAN 5930[7], reference number 08570
(This section will meet on alternate Wednesdays in BEL 208)