

**TO:** NSF Investigators, Deans, Department Chairs, and Research Administrators

**FROM:** Joan Kirkendall, Associate Provost and Director, Office of Sponsored Programs

**RE:** Clarification of Revised NSF Salary Policy

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The recently revised NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG), effective January 2009, includes a significant policy change regarding salary for Senior Personnel. The revised policy, as a general rule, limits salary compensation for Senior Personnel to no more than two months of their regular salary in any one year. This limit includes salary compensation received from all NSF-funded grants. This change moves away from the concept of summer salary versus academic salary and emphasizes NSF's requirement that salary should be charged to an NSF-funded project when work on that project is performed. Under this policy, investigators may propose more than two months salary if the request is disclosed in the proposal budget, justified in the budget justification, and specifically approved by NSF in the award notice. This policy is in effect for all proposals prepared on or after January 5th, 2009, and any awards made after January 5th.

Implementation of the Policy:

- NSF does not intend the two-month limitation to be a hard cap or ceiling. Institutions should continue to propose salary for Senior Personnel as determined by the needs of the project.
- This policy applies to PIs, Co-Is and Senior Personnel as defined by NSF; i.e., those individuals listed in Section A (Senior Personnel) on the NSF budget forms, with the exception of Research faculty. The policy does not apply to postdoctoral scholars or other individuals listed in Section B (Other Personnel) on the budget forms.
- Research faculty, typically supported entirely by sponsored research funds, are not considered by NSF to be "Senior Personnel" for purposes of this revised salary policy, and may continue to request more than 2 months of salary, as they have in the past.
- Under the revised policy, Senior Personnel are permitted to charge two months total salary (academic year and/or summer) to NSF projects per year, regardless of whether those projects are direct awards from NSF or subawards to Boston University using NSF funds.
- Boston University will use the calendar year as a basis for implementing the policy to maximize flexibility and to accommodate the full three summer months in the same period for faculty.
- Before the revised policy, in some cases, PIs were able to re-budget funds (under Expanded Authorities) to cover a third month of salary. This is no longer possible unless specifically approved in writing by the appropriate NSF program official.

If you have questions about the policy or would like to discuss the policy as it applies to your particular NSF proposal or award, please contact the OSP Assistant Director assigned to your school or department at X 3- 4365.