To: Principal Investigators, Department Research Administrators, Personnel & Payroll Liaisons  

Subject: Upcoming changes to Sponsored Research Processing

In the 2017-18 fiscal year, the University of Colorado Boulder was allocated $511 million via grants, contracts and awards to support the various research activities of our institutes, colleges and schools. This is an exciting milestone, and the university intends to continue expanding our research budget and impact on the world. To ensure we continue along this trajectory, the CFO and provost have asked us to reiterate the importance of complying with sponsor and university requirements when conducting research at the University of Colorado Boulder.

To that end, we are informing you of changes to the PeopleSoft HCM and Finance systems going into effect Oct. 22, which will automatically prevent charges to awards after their end date.

Our current systems rely on manual intervention and do not automatically stop charges from being recorded after an award’s authorized end date. This means payroll, procurement and other transactions can continue to be charged to an award even though the sponsor has not approved spending. This lack of automation presents a compliance risk and requires additional effort to monitor and correct transactions.

On Oct. 22, new system controls will prevent entry of certain financial transactions for awards past their end date. For example, payroll past the project end date will no longer be allowed to charge directly to an award. That pay will instead be charged to a departmental suspense account.

With this change, we are taking an important step as a research community to ensure research business processes align with campus expectations, as well as with the requirements of our sponsors. The Campus Controller’s Office (CCO) and Office of Contracts and Grants (OCG) continue to host forums to disseminate details of this change and updates to campus business processes to accommodate awards when extensions are expected. We have posted much of this information on our Project Status Automation webpage, including the extension request forms that must be used.

We thank you for your commitment to innovation and impact. We are sincerely proud to support the research conducted by our world-class faculty and the work of the research administrators who support them. If you have any questions, please contact CCO at ccoextensions@colorado.edu.

Laura Ragin  
Assistant Vice Chancellor and Controller

Denitta Ward  
Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research & Director, Office of Contracts and Grants