

Research Management Meeting

November 29, 2023

2:00 – 3:00PM

Simone Alpen, Senior Director, HUIT | ATS Research Administration and Compliance Systems

Agenda

Updates:

- ITCRB Proposal: Research Financial and Compliance Modernization
- Research Administration and Compliance Reporting (RACR)
- GMAS
- Huron Research Compliance Applications
- Regulated Data Stakeholder Survey
- Getting More Information and Help

ITCRB Proposal

Research Financial and Compliance Modernization

What is the ITCRB?

- ITCRB = IT Capital Review Board
- The IT Capital Fund provides multi-year funding for University-wide, administrative and academic information technology projects
- Annually, the IT Capital Review Board (ITCRB) reviews project funding proposals and makes recommendations to the Executive Vice President (EVP) for the upcoming fiscal year
- Projects reviewed by the ITCRB represent many of the highest IT priorities at the University. To be considered for funding, a project must meet the following four criteria:
 - Support an enterprise-wide administrative or academic process
 - Create a new capability or extend functionality, including major upgrades of purchased software
 - Be valued at \$250K or more
 - Be endorsed by a Vice President or Vice Provost
- In short, ITCRB-funded projects are **mission-critical**

For more information, details, and group membership, check out the [HUIT Project Management site](#)

All That Background Brings Us to . . .

- The Research Finance and Compliance Modernization Project being proposed this year
- This project is also known as "ecrt and PI Dashboard replacement"
- Over the years, the University has invested in a robust ecosystem to support research administration and compliance
- However, two major pain points exist around effort reporting and the management of PI financial portfolios
- We currently have a "**burning platform**" scenario on our hands—the University runs the risk of potential technical failure and continuing inefficiencies leading to frustration and, critically, non-compliance

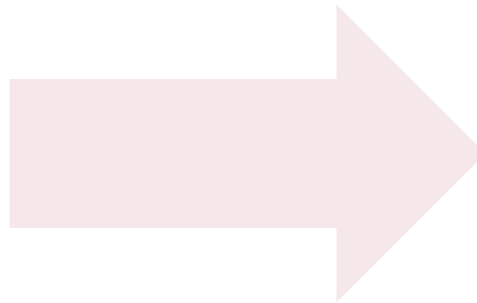
It's critical to note that this project will seek to de-commission the PI Dashboard and ecrt *only* when all technical and business requirements have been met

Project Vision and Objectives

Implement a University-wide solution—replacing ecrt and the Principal Investigator (PI) Dashboard—to simplify effort reporting, facilitate reporting and projections, streamline business processes, and address today’s significant risks and resource inefficiencies in the research administration domain.

Our current state leads to:

- Challenges to researcher and faculty support
- Less-than-optimal use of funds, resources, and energy
- Staff turnover, frustration, and friction
- Challenges maintaining compliance



We will modernize the tools for effort reporting and financial management by:

- Replacing ecrt and the PI Dashboard with a new solution integrated with the existing research systems
- Developing streamlined integrated tools, reports, templates, and checklists for grant managers to free them up to more effectively support researchers
- Being guided by the community through direct stakeholder engagement

ITCRB Proposal Cycle



- Funded projects officially begin July 2024
- Some pre-July work may commence in spring 2024

Why?

Today's landscape of tools, reports, and shadow systems rely on aging technology that is difficult to support and time-consuming to navigate for the community of grant managers, and financial managers

\$1B+ in research funding
3,000 faculty and researchers
700 administrators

Harvard is a world-class institution, and this community deserves a set of technical solutions that allow them to get to the heart of their work

Administrators and leaders

Ensuring that our research funding is stewarded compliantly, effectively, and efficiently

Faculty, principal investigators, and researchers

Doing research that benefits, and influences society, culture, the economy, and the environment

Research and Compliance Reporting

RACR

RACR Overview

Research Administration & Compliance Reporting

Our team provides high quality, transparent, and accessible insights into research administration and compliance data assets by delivering optimized and community informed reporting and analytics solutions.

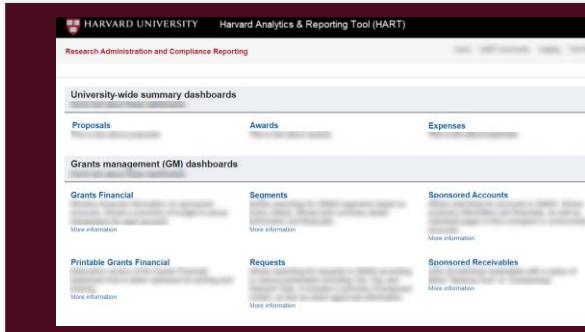
- We are part of the team that also supports GMAS, ESTR-IRB, Agreements, Data Safety, ecrt, and the Research Administration Portal
- We work closely with leadership in OSP, OVPR, school research administration to produce solutions
- You may know us from our work in GMAS!
- Other reports and RACR dashboards are primarily available through Harvard Analytics Reporting Tool (HART)

For information about RACR and upcoming RACR news: <https://ras.fss.harvard.edu/reporting>

For questions about RACR solutions, email: RACRsupport@harvard.edu

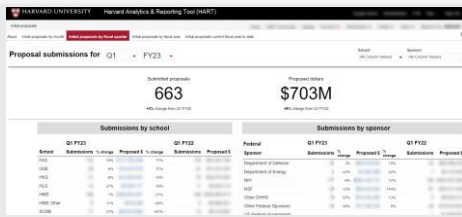
RACR December Release Highlight

New Dashboards – Available December 18, 2023



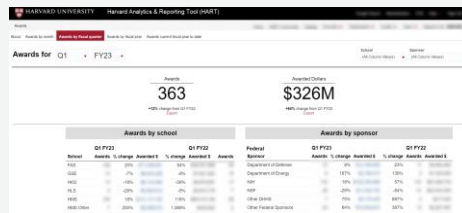
Research Administration and Compliance Reporting Landing Page

- Available from the top-right dropdown menu
- Can be set as homepage
- Links to new and existing research administration and compliance dashboards



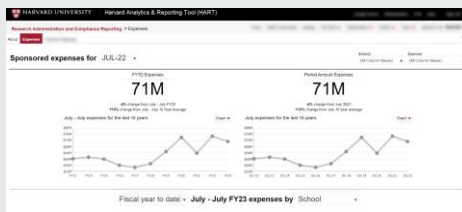
Proposals Dashboard

- Initial sponsored proposals and related high-level information
- View summaries, compare years and types of sponsor
- Example Q: How many proposals are submitted each month?



Awards Dashboard

- Initial sponsored awards and related high-level information
- View summaries, compare years and types of sponsor
- Example Q: How much was awarded in the last fiscal year?



Expenses Dashboard

- Expenses off sponsored awards with account and related high-level information
- View summaries, compare years and types of sponsor
- Example Q: What are the sponsored expenses to-date?

GMAS

GMAS

- December GMAS release scheduled for 12/16/2023
 - This is a minor enhancement and bug fix release
 - It includes enhancements to organizations and receipts & receivables, as well as bug fixes and technical upgrades
- Convert work – coming in early 2024
 - We are continuing work to convert GMAS screens
 - Signature screens
 - External organization homepage
 - All "changes to existing segment" type requests including:
 - Pre-award expenditures
 - Carryforward
 - No-cost extensions
 - Equipment re-budgets
 - Subrecipient at no additional cost
 - Interfaculty involvement
 - Early termination

Huron Research Compliance Suite

Huron Research Compliance Suite

OAIR, ESTR, DUA, Data Safety

- The Huron Research Compliance Suite will be unavailable from Friday, December 8th at 7:00 pm ET until Saturday, December 9th at 2:00 am ET for a release
- This release includes minor changes to the Agreements-DUA, IRB reliance, and Data Safety SmartForms, along with navigation improvements and enhanced activities across the suite
- Highlights include:
 - ESTR-IRB, Agreements-DUA, and Data Safety - improvements to enhance workspace warnings and alerts and provide more context on related projects
 - Data Safety - additional tracking measures to support ancillary reviews and ensure PI attestation for using CMS-regulated data
 - OAIR - updates to workspace warnings and alerts.

Regulated Data Stakeholder Survey

Regulated Data Stakeholder (RDS) Engagement



- The RDS Stakeholder Engagement group is charged with creating a multi-perspective assessment of the current state, challenges, gaps, and opportunities in business processes that are needed for the execution of research with regulated data
 - These community perspectives will inform institutional business process planning to optimize these processes, reduce burdens, reduce risk, and improve research success
 - Communities include research compliance, contract/DUA negotiation, sponsored research offices, research administration, school security officers, IT service providers, departmental administrators, research project administrators and PIs



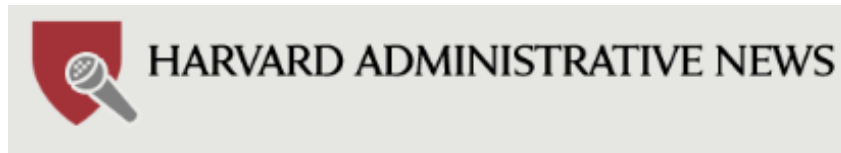
Be on the lookout for a survey coming in December!

Getting More Information and Help

Getting More Information and Help



<https://ras.fss.harvard.edu/>



<https://admin-enevs.eureka.harvard.edu/home>

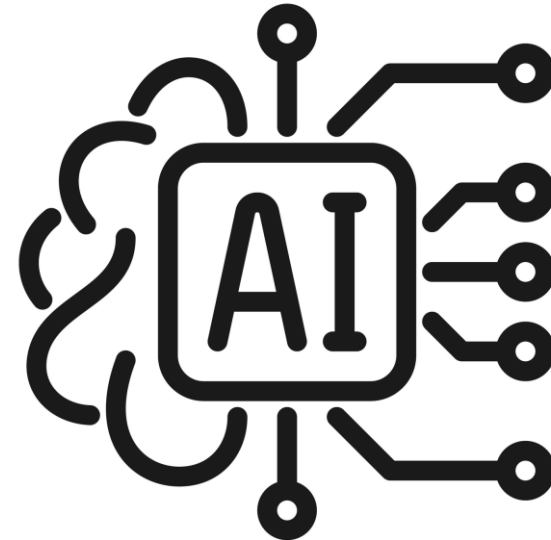


REMINDER

The December 7 edition of eNews will include important financial and research administration office year-end dates and deadlines!

Harvard AI Sandbox

- The AI Sandbox provides a “walled-off,” secure environment in which to experiment with generative AI, mitigating many security and privacy risks and ensuring the data entered will not be used to train any public AI tools.
- It offers a single interface that enables access to seven different Large Language Models (LLM): Azure OpenAI GPT-3.5, GPT-3.5 16k, GPT-4, and GPT-4 32k; Anthropic Claude 2 and Instant; and Google PaLM 2 Bison
- Guidelines for the use of Generative AI tools at Harvard: <https://huit.harvard.edu/ai/guidelines>
- For more information: <https://huit.harvard.edu/ai-sandbox>



Note: this image AI generated image was sourced using [Creative Cloud](#), which is available to the Harvard Community!

Thank you!