Grant Proposal, Award, and Account Setup Process
Office of the Controller and Office of Sponsored Awards Management

The Office of the Controller's Grants and Funds Management area and the Office of Sponsored Awards Management teamed up on the Grant Proposal, Award, and Account Setup Process Improvement Project to prepare the university for the launch of a new grants management system. The project focused first on streamlining and strengthening the process — reducing delays, eliminating redundant steps, and improving communication and support — so that when the new system goes live, it delivers greater efficiency and transparency.

The project team's recommendations are outlined below, and the full online report provides more detail.

Recommended Improvements

- **Leverage Huron** to reduce errors, manual work, and duplicate data entry and to increase communication and transparency
- **Enforce the internal proposal deadline** for more thorough, consistent review
- **Require training** to reduce proposal errors and improve grants management
- **Build staff capacity** to support growth, complexity, and compliance
- **Clarify departmental and college pre- and post-award points of contact** for proposals and awards to support high-quality service
- **Standardize web resources** for accuracy and consistency

Projected Impact: Immediate Wins and Long-Term Gains

Huron implementation will have an immediate effect, eliminating duplicate data entry and reducing manual work to save time, improve communication, and increase transparency. Over time, the full array of improvements will cut errors, reduce delays, and ensure researchers and administrators are better supported. All told, the changes bring quick wins today and meaningful gains that build over the long term.

Immediate	Long-Term
750-1,000 hours saved annually in GFM	On-time proposals nearly tripled
Greater transparency in proposal tracking	Substantially correct proposals up 7x
Staff time redirected to higher-value work	PI training completion at 95%