

Zach Gill
Oregon State University
Candidate Statement – Region VI Secretary-elect

I am excited for the opportunity to join NCURA's Region VI leadership as the Secretary-Elect. I have been a member of NCURA since 2013 and have attended and presented at several NCURA conferences. The comradery built through NCURA's events has always been a shot in my arm, enabling me to return to the office re-energized with lots of new ideas to explore. I am an attorney by training who has worked in sponsored research administration for 9 years. I am currently at Oregon State University and have been the Director of Sponsored Programs, Award Contracting for 5 years. We are a combined pre-award and post-award office that encourages collaborative problem solving in our life-cycle support teams. My goal as your Secretary-Elect for Region VI is to give back to the organization that has helped me and continue the great work of NCURA in this dynamic region. Research administration is an endlessly interesting field and I want to encourage as many people as possible to engage and thrive in the profession.

Universities are gateways to achievement and it is essential we use our positions to open doors. Applying that to a sponsored programs office, I have been focused on two initiatives; (i) reviewing policies and procedures to level the playing field for all faculty, and (ii) reviewing hiring and career development plans in our office to open the door to more applicants and support those who want to move ahead. First, the myriad of rules and processes in sponsored programs can stifle early career investigators, who tend to be a more diverse group than established investigators. It is up to us to make processes clear and fair so that there is no impression that the rules are different for different faculty. Second, I value a diverse team and their points of view. I am a Search Advocate, a program that works to reduce bias in hiring decisions through expanding the pool of candidates and removing bias from the decision making process.

PROFILE

Senior leader with diverse experience in research administration, uniquely combined with transactional and intellectual property legal expertise. Measurable track record of improving operations to foster client relationships and increase productivity.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

[Oregon State University](#); Corvallis, OR

Director Sponsored Programs, Award Contracting

August 2016 – Present

The Office for Sponsored Research and Award Administration (OSRAA) provides pre-award and post-award support to those engaged in world-class research at Oregon State University.

- Leads pre-award team in OSRAA comprised of 15 research administration managers, classified staff and unclassified staff divided into three teams serving all research programs across the university
- Manage operations to support the review of proposals (2000 proposals in FY20), accept awards, and setup financial accounts (valued at \$342M in FY20)
- Previously managed non-financial post-award functions including no cost extensions, rebudgeting, and prior approval requests
- Facilitated reorganization that resulted unified pre-award and post-award teams organized by colleges to better support our faculty
- Led Oregon State's membership application with Federal Demonstration Partnership and serves as lead administrative contact
- Created department culture of high-level customer service to better assist faculty needs through formal staff training and continuous feedback to individual team members
- Facilitated fully remote office functionality during COVID. Retained remote work capability to encourage hiring process to attract and retain top talent in any location

Senior Grant and Contract Officer

April 2015 – August 2016

Hired into the Office for Sponsored Research and Award Administration (OSRAA) to manage a team of four professionals to support proposal review, award acceptance, financial set up and award administration.

- Negotiated awards from federal, state, and non-profit research sponsors and related subawards in support of multiple colleges and research centers
- Represented OSRAA at workshops and seminars to inform and explain/discuss campus policies and procedures governing the responsibilities of Sponsored Research
- Built relationships with key faculty members and led cross-departmental workgroups to review inefficiencies, gather feedback and improve collaboration on proposal preparation and submission
- Integrated new technology and tools to improve tracking, increase accountability and provide transparency
- Ensured compliance with state and federal research regulations including implementation of the Federal Uniform Guidance regulations

[Georgia Tech Research Corporation](#); Atlanta, GA

October 2012 – April 2015

Contract Officer, Office of Industry Engagement

- Negotiated complex internationally sponsored research agreements (\$16M in FY14)
- Fostered relationships with international sponsors, including industry, foreign government, university, and non-profit foundations to further the University's strategic goal of doubling industry sponsored research (\$16M in FY14)

- Acted as subject-matter expert to consult faculty and management on the interpretation and application of foreign law, federal and state law, and institutional policy
- Reviewed proposal and agreement compliance with U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations, IRS revenue procedures, U.S. export regulations and university policies
- Utilized legal, intellectual property and technology experience to assist the Office of Legal Affairs and Technology Transfer office in resolving complex intellectual property issues

[Alston & Bird LLP](#); Atlanta, GA

March 2010 – October 2012

Alston & Bird LLP is an international law firm with over 800 lawyers in 11 offices throughout the U.S., Europe, and Asia with clients in a wide range of industries, such as information technology, health care and life sciences, and logistics

Associate, Intellectual Property and Technology Transaction Group

Provided legal counsel on regulation interpretation and compliance activities with a focus on technology including open source software, intellectual property licensing, and data breach notification

- Drafted and negotiated licensing agreements, information technology purchase agreements, non-disclosure agreements, website terms of use and privacy policies
- Assisted corporate clients in technology related mergers and acquisitions including drafting purchase agreements and reviewing patent portfolios
- Advise on copyright and trademark law including drafting sponsorship agreements, reviewing advertising copy and advising clients on text and email marketing

CERTIFICATIONS & AFFILIATIONS

Search Advocate – Oregon State University program to reduce bias in hiring

National Council University Research Administrators – Member 2013-present

PRA 2019 Program Co-Chair

Presenter: 2017 NCURA PRA Conference Presentation "Working with Foundations"

United States Patent and Trademark Office – Registered Patent Attorney

Oregon State Bar – Member

Corvallis Environmental Center – Board of Directors, 2017 – 2020

EDUCATION

[The George Washington University Law School](#); Washington, DC – Juris Doctor

2009

[North Carolina State University](#); Raleigh, NC – Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering, *cum laude* 2005

Minor in Business Administration with focus in Entrepreneurship, Study Abroad at National University of Ireland Galway

- **International Paper; Roanoke Rapids, NC** – Spring/Fall Intern, Project Engineering 2003
- **General Electric; Greenville, SC** – Summer Intern, Design Engineering 2002