Kuali Coeus (KC) FAQ’s

What is Kuali Coeus?

Kuali Coeus is a comprehensive “cradle to grave” software system for research administration, beginning with budget and proposal preparation and continuing to account close-out. KC will provide a set of tools and modules that make research administration easier and more efficient and eliminate the need for shadow systems or spreadsheets to build budgets, manage finances and project expenses.

What is the difference between KC and Kuali Financial System?

The Kuali Financial System (KFS) replaces the universities legacy accounting systems, such as General Ledger, Accounts Payable, Purchasing, Capital Asset Management, Cashiering, Purchasing and Effort Certification. KC and KFS are fully integrated to facilitate the exchange of data between the two systems.

How will KC simplify research administration?

KC will allow automatically import rates and salaries into budgets (while reflecting needed privacy), pre-populate forms, and automatically submit proposals to sponsors via grants.gov and other electronic systems. KC will also help you project expenses and manage accounts across multiple projects, and obligate expenses in real-time. KC will also help in developing cost-share budgets to meet sponsor requirements. Proposals and other documents will be routed electronically for reviews and approvals.

Will KC check for errors?

Yes. KC will check proposals to determine whether they satisfy specific sponsor requirements to ensure that proposals are ready to submit and will not be rejected for technical reasons.
Will I be able to check the status of my proposals and projects?

Yes. KC will provide visibility as to the status of proposals or contract negotiations. It will also issue reminders to ensure that these steps are completed as quickly as possible.

Who created KC?

KC is an updated version of the MIT developed Coeus software. It is open source software and developed and maintained by a community of universities?

When will Kuali Coeus be ready for use?

Post-award functions are being developed first, with modules rolled out in the middle of 2012. Pre-award functions, such as budgeting, will be developed second, with roll out in 2013.

How will users be trained?

When the system is in the roll-out phase, training will be provided in both an online and in-person setting. The entire user community will have the option to choose which type they prefer. We will also provide a helpdesk, basic instruction on the KC website as well as an FAQ section on the KC website.

What systems will KC augment and or replace?

KC will eventually replace ECERT, PARiS, and SCERA. The ISTAR for IRB and ISTAR for IACUC (under development) along with other systems in the implementation pipeline will interface with KC and will not be replaced.
What is the difference between KC and the Research Administration System (RAS)?

KC is the central component of the RAS for all aspects of research proposal/grant/contract preparation and management. Some components of the RAS will be provided by other software platforms, such as the ISTAR system in use for the IRB. All components of the RAS will interface with each other to simplify research administration.

How will surges in system usage be handled to prevent downtime?

Currently we are working with DCG and SPA to understand the heightened system load during the times of proposal submission also taking into account campus wide increased usage of the system during these surges.

Where can we find updates on the project and timeline?

Information regarding the KC project will be located on our dedicated website. The link will be distributed soon!

How does the KC system itself support our specific user requirements?

The Research Administration System requirements document can be viewed and downloaded from the Office of Research Website http://research.usc.edu/ under the announcements list ion the right. We have been working with the user community for approximately a year to understand your overall needs regarding the system. Comments are invited.

In addition, Christine Lavoie, Director of Research Administration in the Office of Research, is organizing user groups to contribute to specifications and review software as it is developed, prior to release. To participate, contact Christine Lavoie at clavoie@usc.edu.
Will I have a chance to try out KC?

Yes. The developers are using a “model office” to demonstrate KC as it is being developed. Users will have the opportunity to view KC and offer comments prior to its release. You can learn more about Kuali and KC on the Kuali Foundation Website http://kuali.org/. Be sure to take a test drive of the KC system while visiting. Please note the login instructions under Information. http://kuali.org/test-drives

Will KC accommodate business processes that are specific to my school?

Yes. KC allows routings and approval pathways as well as basic budget information to be customized for a school, department or center.

What happens to my existing data in PARiS or elsewhere?

Information Technology Systems will implement a plan to import legacy data into KC from old systems.

Will Kuali, Workday, and other systems be able to talk to each other?

Yes, Kuali Coeus, Kuali Financials, and Workday will be fully integrated to support the exchange of data between them. As future applications are added integration points will be developed wherever possible.

What is the backup if KC goes down?

KC will be run in a distributed or clustered environment made up of a series of servers that will dynamically roll your session from one server to the other should one fail. All of the production platforms including KC are backed up at our disaster recovery location in Arizona. Your data are mirrored or replicated to the DR site within seconds of being stored locally. Should a catastrophic event occur locally the production platforms will be restored within hours from our disaster recovery location.

For more information on Kuali Coeus, contact Christine Lavoie: clavoie@usc.edu