

To: All MUNFA Members

From: The MUNFA Executive Committee

Date: April 21, 2014

Subject: ORS (Office of Research Services) / CREAT

It has come to the attention of MUNFA that a number of Academic Staff Members (ASMs) in several Academic Units across campus have been experiencing ongoing and serious impediments to their research by the CREAT Network and the Office of Research Grant and Contract Services.

The issues include:

- Long delays in processing of contracts and grants; restricting access to analytical equipment, arbitrary changes in facility management plans, lack of transparency about financial operations, etc.
- These issues have the potential to seriously impact the productivity and outcome of research and collaborations, and compromise the Academic Freedom of ASMs.

MUNFA can best represent the interests of our members only when the scale of the problem is understood. We would appreciate hearing from ASMs who have experienced issues (similar or different) with the CREAT Network and the Office of Research Grant and Contract Services.