



The American
University in Cairo

Office of Sponsored
Programs

OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS (OSP)

Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2021



OSP's Fiscal Year 2021 in Review

Though FY 2021 was a difficult year on all fronts worldwide, through skillful and professional engagement the Office of Sponsored Programs team managed to break records and excel in our aim to provide our support and expertise to develop and submit competitive proposals and administer awards.



A Message from Dina Adly Associate Provost, Sponsored Programs



Throughout this difficult year where all funding has become more limited and competition has increased, our pre-award team intensified their efforts to encourage faculty to apply to the announced funding opportunities. The OSP Proposals team launched several outreach tools to help understand the faculty's research needs and continuously improve OSP proposals services. Examples include the "Funding Search Request Form," the "Proposals Survey," up-to-date/interactive posting of the announced funding alerts on the OSP website, and others. The team also ensures the recognition of major awards and sponsors through various tools, such as online stories and articles, thank you letters for major sponsors, and others.

Our numbers show that we closed FY2021 by exceeding the target we had for the number of proposals submitted. Our Awards Team has been extremely active this year as well. To date, we received **\$45M** in awards.

Our Principal Investigator Support Unit (PISU) which was launched less than two years ago visited each school at AUC, held kickoff meetings with all PIs as soon as they received a grant, prepared a workflow document that captured and summarized the whole grant management process, managed to save 100s of 1000s of dollars by notifying faculty members early on that their grants are expiring, and working with them hand in hand to manage to spend the funds in accordance with the Sponsors guidelines while following AUC's policies and procedures. A model of how a centralized customer service office should be.

Pre-Awards Top Highlights

During the fiscal year 2021, the OSP team explored and evaluated ongoing all potential funding opportunities, using various databases, and sent out the relevant ones to the faculty members across the different AUC schools and centers. Throughout this year, the team announced more than **90** funding opportunities, a record high ever, of which, over **90%** were research-centered.

The team also worked closely with the faculty members on the development and submission of externally funded proposals, focused on research opportunities, institutional development, and operational excellence, and managed to submit a record high ever of **172** proposals, **+6%** versus the past 3 years' average and **+8%** versus FY20.

Furthermore, the OSP team also conducted outreach activities and events aimed at enhancing the visibility of OSP, and the professors' ability to compete for and win awards. This included conducting **9** OSP information sessions covering various topics such as familiarizing all schools at AUC with the proposals submission process, a training session on how to write a good field-initiated research proposal, as well as a few information sessions for major research funding opportunities in order to facilitate the proposal drafting and application process and encourage more faculty to apply. The team also launched several outreach tools to help understand the faculty research needs and continuously improve the OSP proposals services, including the "Funding Search Request Form", and the "Proposals Survey". Finally, the team also highlighted the recognition of major awards and sponsors through online stories and articles and thank you letters for major sponsors.

Awards Top Highlights

Federal Grants

A few months after AUC won “USAID Scholars Activity”, a **\$36M** agreement for a 10-year full-fledged scholarship program for **700** students coming from Egypt's **27** governorates, USAID approached AUC for further collaboration. Specifically, in September 2020, USAID’s multifaceted faith in AUC’s successful management of its current portfolio of awards prompted USAID to resume some components of the terminated COE Energy’s scope. The agency invited AUC to submit a proposal to incorporate the continuation of **27** undergraduate scholarships awarded under the terminated Center of Excellence for Energy by transferring/increasing these scholarships to the “USAID Scholars Activity”. Upon subsequent discussions, USAID approved adding **\$1.8M** to the current USAID Scholars Activity thus increasing the total award from **\$36M** to a new total of **\$37.8M**.

By mid-2020 and drawing upon the resonant success of the current University Center for Career Development (UCCD) and the interest of the Ministry of Higher Education and additional Egyptian universities, USAID requested AUC to scale up the UCCD program to serve more Egyptian youth by establishing additional centers for career development at other universities. Following negotiations, USAID approved adding **\$14.5M** to the ongoing UCCD, thus increasing the total to **\$33M** and extending the grant till **2025**. The stretched scope will establish a total of **30** sustainable career centers in **22** public universities in Greater Cairo, Delta, Canal Region, North Sinai and Upper Egypt. This will result in a massive impact on the employability of approximately **1.5M** youth.

In early February 2021, AUC received a **\$10M** award, “USAID-AUC Merit Award (UAMA)”. The fixed award aims to support **108** partial scholarships between **62** continuing students and **46** new students for the coming three years. This award followed several iterations & rounds to ensure compliance with the Earmark requirements targeting students of high financial need. The significance of this award stems from USAID approaching AUC to alleviate and relieve AUC’s financial burden. It is a vivid showcase of AUC’s longstanding and continuous relationship with USAID that has prospered since 2017 and is still flourishing.



Foundations and Corporations Grants

In the fiscal year 2021, the foundations' team was able to secure **47** new grants amounting to **\$10M** from different foundations in Egypt and around the globe that support research, public service, and scholarships. The team has been managing grants from international foundations, such as the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Ford Foundation, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Open Society Foundations, LafargeHolcim Foundation for Sustainable Construction, Hivos Foundation, Drosos Foundation, and Carnegie Corporation of NY; local foundations such as Sawiris Foundation for Social Development and Al Alfi Foundation for Human and Social Development; international organizations such as UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP, World Bank, WHO, IDRC and GIZ; international universities such as Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), University of Cambridge, Coventry University, University of Ottawa, University of the Western Cape, Qatar University, The London School of Economics, The Eindhoven University of Technology, The Eberhard Karl University of Tübingen; embassies such as the Embassy of Switzerland, the British Embassy in Cairo and the Australian Embassy in Cairo; international corporations such as HSBC and Facebook; and local corporations such as Orascom Construction and Shell Egypt.

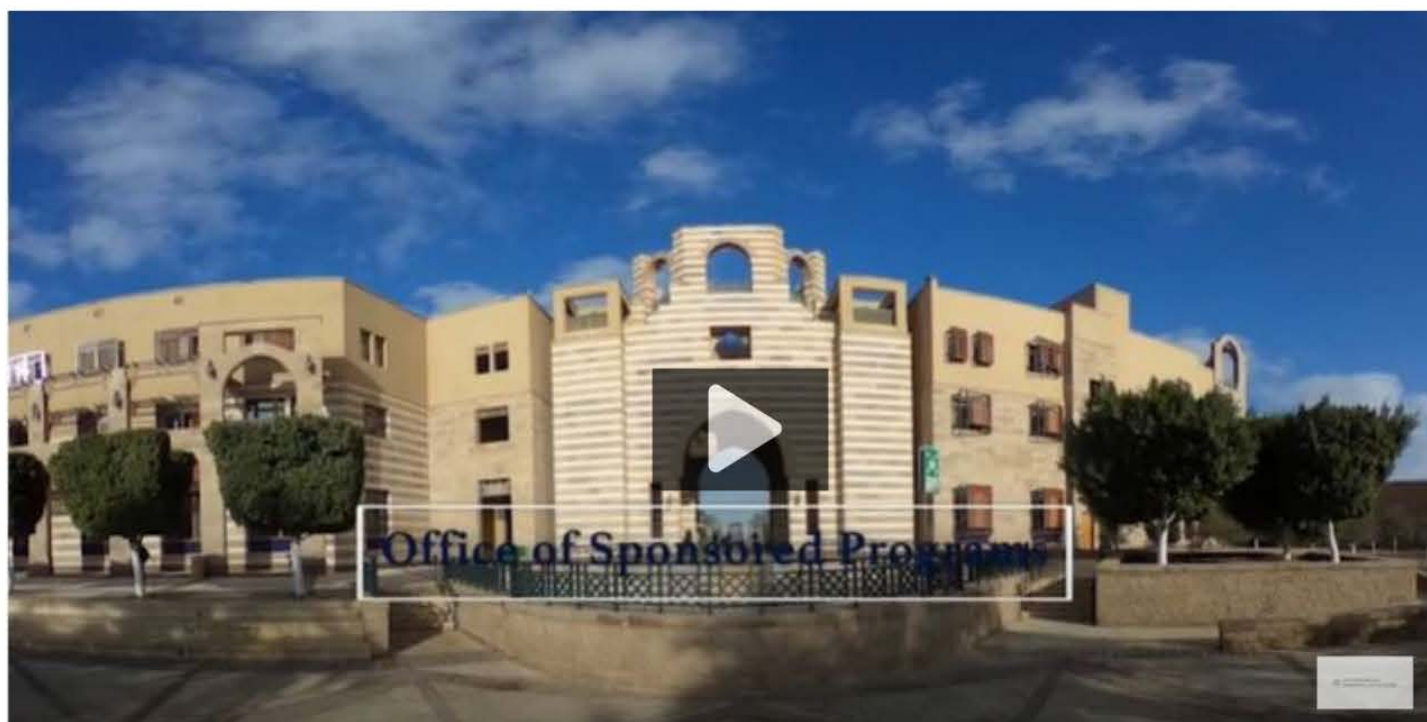
OSP Luncheon with the President

On April 11th, 2021, the OSP team was invited to a luncheon with President Francis J. Ricciardone to celebrate and recognize the remarkable skill, dedication, and success of the OSP team over the years. The luncheon included inspiring and motivating speeches from the President, the Provost, Dr. Ehab Abdel-Rahman, and Dina Adly, Associate Provost for Sponsored Programs.



OSP Presentation at the Board of Trustees Annual Meeting

Dina Adly, Associate Provost for Sponsored Programs had the honor of presenting at the Board of Trustees Meeting that took place on the 18th of May, 2021 to exhibit the evolution and many successes of the Office over the last 35 years. The video below showcased interviews from sponsors' representatives and faculty from a range of different departments across AUC who shared their experience working with OSP, as well as influential stories from our beneficiaries and how OSP-administered projects have impacted them.



Top Highlights of Proposals and Awards

Highest Numbers of Submitted Proposals



Dr. Hani Sewilam

Professor and Founding Director of the Center for Applied Research on the Environment and Sustainability (CARES), Lead Scientist, Center of Excellence for Water, and Director of the Graduate Program in Sustainable Development, School of Science and Engineering

Dr. Mohamed Salama

Associate Professor, Institute of Global Health and Human Ecology

Dr. Ali Awni

Professor of Practice, Department of Management and Director of the John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy, Civic Engagement and Responsible Business

Highest Numbers of Awards



Dr. Ali Awni

Professor of Practice,
Department of
Management and
Director of the John D.
Gerhart Center for
Philanthropy, Civic
Engagement and
Responsible Business

Dr. James Ketterer

Dean of the School of
Continuing Education
(SCE)

Dr. Hoda Rashad

Professor and Director,
Social Research Center
(SRC)

Dr. Samer Atallah

Associate Professor,
Department of
Economics and
Associate Dean for
Graduate Studies at the
School of Business

Dr. Nagla Rizk

Professor of Economics
and Founding Director
of Access to Knowledge
for Development Center
(A2K4D)

Ms. Magda Fayek

Interim Senior Director,
Student Financial
Affairs and
Scholarships

Dr. Maysa Ayoub

Associate Director,
Center for Migration and
Refugee Studies (CMRS)
and Adjunct Faculty