Who needs to know about the OMB Uniform Guidance?
Anyone who is involved in federal research at Jefferson is responsible to know and understand the changes that the OMB Uniform Guidance brings.

What is the OMB Uniform Guidance?
On December 26, 2013, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards in the Federal Register. The OMB Uniform Guidance will take effect December 26, 2014, and will replace the administrative, accounting, audit rules and principles in eight OMB circulars, including A-21 (Cost Principles), A-110 (Administrative Requirements), and A-133 (Audit Requirements). Each agency will be issuing its own implementing regulations for the OMB Uniform Guidance. Therefore, it is important to keep in mind that, while Jefferson is preparing to complete necessary work by the formal implementation date of December 26, 2014, because agency implementation plans are not expected to be issued until that date, some of the work being done will not be able to be finalized until after the implementation date.

Who is the OMB and what is the reason for the OMB Uniform Guidance?
The OMB is the federal agency that is responsible for leading the development of government-wide policy to assure that grants are managed properly and that Federal dollars are spent in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. They are the agency that was responsible for issuing (and maintaining/updating) the A-21, A-110, and A-133 OMB circulars. These have been the umbrella policies that Jefferson and other research universities (who have accepted federal funding) have been required to remain in compliance with and have all been very important documents for Jefferson in our administration of federal research. In an effort towards streamlining administrative efforts, OMB has led the effort of combining these three circulars with five other circulars into one new document called “OMB Uniform Guidance”. Beyond consolidation of the eight documents into one, the other stated goals were to update the outdated requirements in the former circulars and to update requirements in a manner would reduce some of the administrative burdens created by the former circulars.

What is Jefferson doing to prepare?
Jefferson is committed to making sure it is positioned to comply with the new OMB Uniform Guidance as it becomes effective. We have established a working group to evaluate applicable Jefferson policies, procedures and guidelines (collectively, “Jefferson Policies”) in the context of the new guidance and implementing regulations. The work group is identifying the Jefferson Policies, which will require modification as a result of the implementation of OMB Uniform Guidance and leading the process to recommend the best way to modify affected Jefferson Policies and communicate the changes to the Jefferson research community. The work group is working with representation from areas such as audit, legal, finance, and research administration. If you have any questions, would like more information about the work group, or would like to participate in the process, please feel free to contact Doreen Kornrumpf at 955-8585.