
July Faculty Forum

NJIT Faculty Affairs <bodhoo@njit.edu>

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Reply-To: bodhoo@njit.edu

To: bader@njit.edu



Office of Faculty Affairs



A Message from the VPFA

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the July edition of The Forum. I hope you are all enjoying a restful and rejuvenating summer!

This month's issue touches on several important updates across our campus and community:

First, a quick note of gratitude regarding the recent **OMB Regulations comment period**. Thank you to our individual faculty members who stepped up to share their expertise. In response to Provost Pelesko's call for input, I had the privilege of leading a group of NJIT faculty and researchers in submitting a collective public comment to the OMB—an initiative that members of our Board of Trustees noted and expressed deep appreciation for.

On the national stage, please join me in offering our warmest congratulations to **Dr. Zeyuan Qiu**, Professor of Environmental Science and Chair of our Department of Chemistry and Environmental Science. Dr. Qiu was recently named a Fellow of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS), a wonderful and well-deserved honor!

Finally, a quick administrative reminder regarding **Salary Increase Activity Summaries**. Following the campus-wide announcement about the Year 3 (FY 2026) and Year 4 (FY 2027) salary increases under the PSA/AAUP contract, faculty and lecturers participating in the merit and discretionary portions must submit a two-page summary of activities to their Department Chairperson (or Associate Dean for MTSM) by **Friday, September 4, 2026**. Please note that submitting this summary is required to remain eligible for the reallocated merit portion, even for units without a formal merit rubric. Approved increases and retroactive payments will be issued by the second full pay period in November.

Thank you all for your continued dedication, and enjoy the rest of the newsletter!
Omowunmi "Wunmi" Sadik, Ph.D.
Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Distinguished Professor of Chemistry & Env. Science

Faculty Engagement: Individual Comments Submitted on Proposed OMB Rule (2 CFR)

Following Provost John Pelesko's memo encouraging faculty input on federal regulatory updates, a group of NJIT faculty members and active principal investigators submitted an individual public comment to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regarding Docket OMB-2026-0034.

Overview of the Submission:

- **Scope & Focus:** Spearheaded by Dr. Wunmi Sadik, the submission provided technical feedback on proposed revisions to 2 CFR Subtitle A, specifically addressing operational impacts on direct-cost allowances (such as conference travel and publication fees), pass-through subrecipient monitoring, and grant administration processes.
- **Individual Capacity:** The submission was authored and co-signed strictly by faculty in their personal academic capacities as active grant-funded researchers, adhering to institutional communication guidelines.
- **AARC Update:** This faculty effort was reported as part of the regulatory updates discussed at the Board of Trustees Academic Affairs and Research Committee (AARC) meeting on July 16.

Thank you to all colleagues who contributed their operational feedback and expertise to the submission.

An Agent That Reads the Federal Register So You Don't Have To.

Article by Professor David Bader

There is a particular kind of email that arrives too late: a colleague forwards a grant call perfectly suited to your research, but with only three weeks to the deadline. The information was public on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) the whole time, but nobody read it because reading every solicitation isn't anyone's full-time job. As Associate Dean for Research, part of my role is connecting faculty with funding. Traditional keyword alerts fail—they match unrelated calls while missing interdisciplinary opportunities. To bridge this gap, I built an automated research-alert system.

How It Works: Every Monday, the system queries [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) for new listings across key agencies (NSF, NASA, DOD, DOE, HHS). It uses Claude to evaluate solicitations against our

college's 66 faculty research profiles. The AI is instructed to be strict: if there's no genuine fit, it flags no one. For actual matches, it drafts a personalized email referencing the faculty member's specific research and saves it to my Gmail Drafts folder. Nothing is sent automatically—a human always reviews and presses send.

Key Takeaways:

- Simple beats complex: My first design used complex cloud databases. The final version is a single Google Apps Script pasted into a browser—no servers or IT overhead required.
- Data cleanup was the biggest win: Assembling a clean faculty roster revealed outdated titles, missing publications, and understated grant histories, giving us a clearer picture of our research capabilities.
- The goal is judgment, not automation: AI handles the massive volume of reading; human judgment decides what gets communicated.

[\[Read the Full Article\]](#)

Faculty Excellence: Dr. Zeyuan Qiu named a Fellow of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS)

Zeyuan Qiu, professor of environmental science and chair of NJIT's Department of Chemistry and Environmental Science, has been named a Fellow of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS).

The honor is one of the highest the organization bestows, recognizing exceptional leadership and contributions to the conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.



Qiu is one of two Fellows selected in 2026 and will be recognized at the 81st SWCS International Annual Conference in St. Louis on July 28. The recognition caps more than three decades of Qiu's work helping scientists, policymakers and conservation practitioners understand where conservation efforts can have the greatest impact.

Faculty Award Submissions

[NAI](#) - National Academy of Inventors Senior Member due October 15

[APS](#) - American Physical Society Fellow - varies by section

[IEEE Senior Member](#) - rolling deadlines

[Blavatnik Award](#) - anticipated December

Please contact Dr. Shivon Boodhoo, Director of Faculty Awards for help and advice with nominations for prestigious awards and prizes (boodhoo@njit.edu).

Quick Links

- [Office of Faculty Affairs](#)
- [Faculty Awards Initiative](#)
- OMB: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/OMB-2026-0034>

Editorial Board: Dr. Wunmi Sadik, Dr. Shivon Boodhoo, Deric Raymond, Faculty representatives TBD

New Jersey Institute of Technology

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