

The Truth About Vilas

WELCOME!

Take a handout, find a seat, and test your knowledge with the True or False quiz.



Symposium for Research Administrators

University of Wisconsin-Madison
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The Truth About Vilas

John Varda, Managing Officer, RSP Non-Fed Post-Award Team

and

Angie Stenli, RSP Post-Award Accountant, Non-Fed Team

The Truth About Vilas

The plan for today's session

- True/False Quiz
- Introduction
- Presentation:
 - Background about William F. Vilas and the Vilas Trust
 - Overview of the main Vilas award types
 - Vilas award timeline
- Review the Quiz and Collect Questions
- Q&A

Vilas Awards at UW-Madison

Prestigious – The Vilas title is coveted and well known on campus.

Generous – For fiscal year 2018, \$6,876,878 provided for 170 projects.

Multi-Faceted – Professorships, Scholarships, Fellowships, support to hire RAs and PAs, support for early and mid career investigators, support for hardships, and Vilas Research Professors receive retirement benefits and can apply for research supplements for specific projects.

Quirky – no carry-over from one year to the next, some awards have certain salary limitations, in some cases fringe is covered but not posted to the award, one award has matching requirements.

William Freeman Vilas

1840-1908

Soldier, Statesman & Scholar

Benefactor

1840-Born in Vermont

1851-Family settled in Madison, Wisconsin

1858-Graduated UW with Highest Honors

1860-Law Degree from Albany Law School

1860-Returned to Madison to practice law

1862-Volunteered for the Union 23rd
Wisconsin Infantry under Ulysses S. Grant

1863-Promoted to Major, then Lt. Colonel



William Freeman Vilas

1868-1885 – UW Law Professor

1875-1878 – Reviser of Wisconsin Statutes

1881-1885 – UW Regent

1884 –Democratic National Convention Chair

1885 – Elected to Wisconsin State Assembly

1885-1888 – Appointed Post-Master General

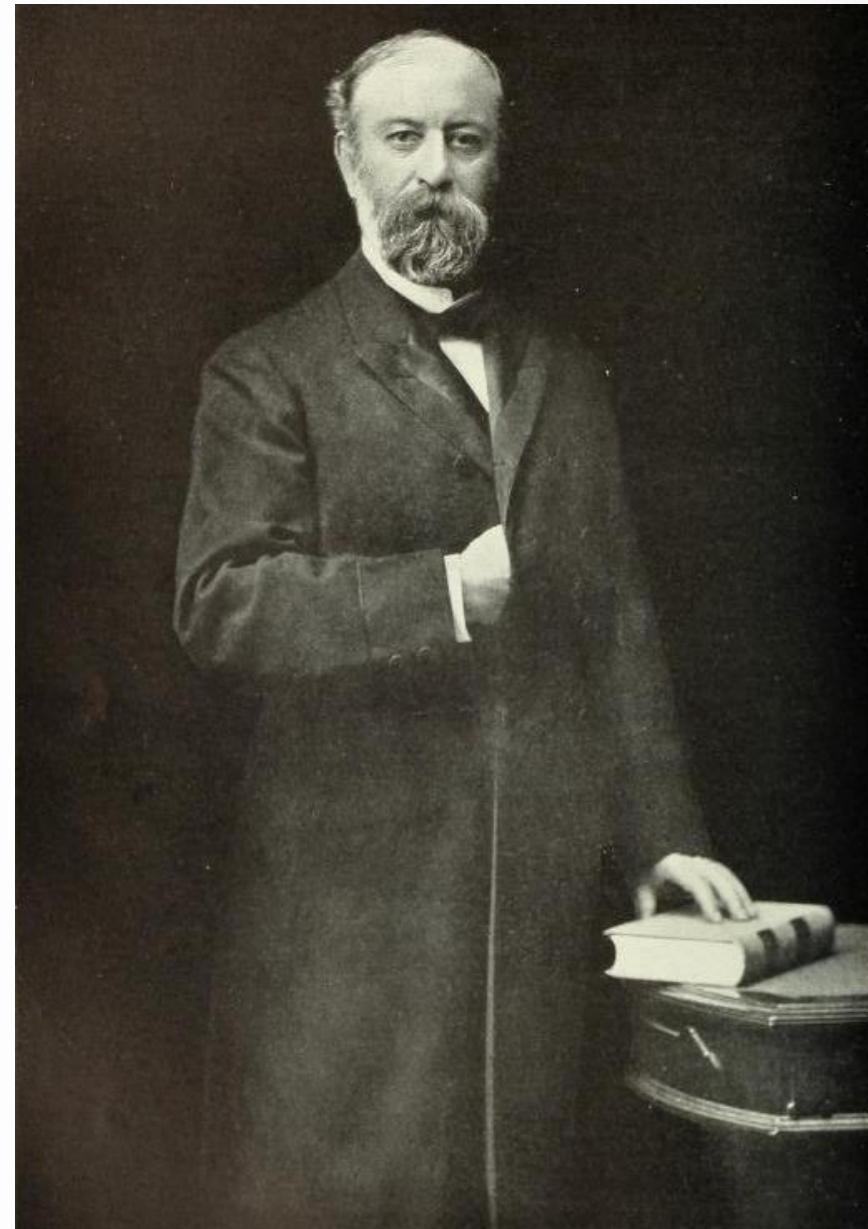
1888-1889 –Secretary of the Interior

1891-1897 – Elected to US Senate

1898-1905 – UW Regent

1898-1908 – Focus on Business

1908 – Died, buried at Forest Hill Cemetery



The Vilas Trust

Prior to his death, William Freeman Vilas created the William F. Vilas Trust for the University of Wisconsin. The plans for the Trust, now over 100 years old, outlines the structure of the Trust itself, how the funds are to be managed, and the specific support for the UW. Many of the unusual elements of the Vilas awards are due to the rules set down long ago. In 1961, the Trust was released to UW following the death of his daughter. The UW has benefited from the Vilas Trust since then.

RSP works closely with the Vilas Trust trustees, attorneys, and accountant to manage the awards in the spirit of what William F. Vilas intended, and according to the limitations he set forth.

Common Features of Vilas Awards

- All Vilas Awards are non-federal sponsored projects (fund 133-).
- A 133- project will be created by Research and Sponsored Programs for your use.
- No carry over of funds from one project to another.
- No rebudgeting allowed.
- Unspent funds have to be returned to Vilas at the end of the project period.
- The projects are set up and administered through the recipient's own department/college.
 - Exception: Vilas Lifecycle Award has RSP as home department with department edits, and Dean as PI.
- Items purchased with flexible funds are subject to the same State rules, University and Department policies/guidelines, and procedures.
- Flexible funds may not be used for scholarships, fellowships or to direct charge tuition.
- Flexible funds may not be used for the purchase of alcohol.

Detailed information regarding Vilas Awards can be found on the RSP website at
<https://www.rsp.wisc.edu/Vilas/index.html>

Vilas Research Professorship

Overview

- The most prestigious Vilas award, and it sets the standard for other Vilas awards.
- Initial award letter provided by Provost's office.
- The PI receives ongoing funding under a new project number each year until retirement.
- Each project covers one fiscal year; the period for which each project is awarded is not negotiable.
- Award provides faculty salary \$10,000 and flexible research funds of \$50,000
- **Vilas Retirement Award** – available only to retired Vilas Research Professors with 15+ years of holding the Vilas Research Professor title, provides small monthly benefit following retirement.
- **Vilas Supplemental Research Funds Award** – current Vilas Research Professors can request supplemental funding. If approved, it provides one year of funding for a specific research project.

Expenditures

- Faculty salary is capped at \$10,000 each year. No fringe benefits are allowed on the award. RSP removes the fringe benefits each month at no charge to the department.
- Flexible funds may not be used to provide additional salary support for the award winner or other faculty members.

Vilas Associates Award

Overview

- Award letters are provided by the VCRGE.
- The award covers two fiscal years; a new project will be provided for each year.
- The period for which the grant is awarded is not negotiable.

PI Summer Salary

- Faculty who are paid on an annual (12 month) basis are not eligible for the summer salary portion of a Vilas Associate award.
- Faculty Summer salary is provided only for the July and August pay periods of the award year, no exceptions are allowed.
- Vilas Associate summer salary is limited to 2/9ths of the lowest paid full Vilas Professor. In cases where the Vilas Associate's academic year salary is greater than that Vilas Professor, the Vilas Associate's summer salary amount will be equal to the 2/9ths of the full Vilas Professor's salary.
- Fringe benefits associated with faculty summer salary payments are provided as part of this award.

Vilas Associates Award

Flexible Funds

- A flexible fund is provided for each of the two fiscal years. Flexible funds not spent during a fiscal year are lost.
- Flexible funds may not be used to provide additional salary support for the award winner or other faculty members.
- If flexible funds are used for other salary support, the associated fringe benefit and tuition remission charges will also be paid from the flexible fund.

Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professorship

Overview *For awards issued July 1, 2014 and after*

- Award letter is provided by the Provost Office
- **This is a five year professorship, however the Vilas funds only cover two fiscal years.** It is highly encouraged that the Vilas funds be spent within these two, however an extension request for the remaining three years may be submitted to the Vice Provost Michael Bernard-Donals. The request will be submitted to the Vilas Trust on your behalf.
- Vilas provides \$50,000 over a two year period with a required match of \$25,000 over the five year award period. There is a minimum requirement of \$5,000 match each year.
- The \$25,000 matching funds project number needs to be provided to Angie Stenli before the 133 Vilas project number is assigned.
- Unspent funds will be returned to the Vilas Trust at the end of the second year unless an extension is granted. If an extension is granted, any unspent funds would be returned to the Vilas Trust at the end of the project.

Expenditures

- If the awardee chooses to put his/her salary on the project, only summer salary is allowed and is capped at \$10,000 each year. RSP removes the fringe benefits each month.
- Flexible funds may not be used to provide additional salary support for the award winner or other faculty members.

Vilas Faculty Mid-Career/Early Career Investigator Award

Overview

- Award letter is provided by the Provost Office
- The award covers one or two fiscal years; a new project will be provided each year.
- The period for which the grant is awarded is not negotiable.
- Vilas provides up to \$50,000 of flexible research funds

Expenditures

- If the awardee chooses to put his/her salary on the project, only summer salary is allowed and is capped at \$10,000 each year. RSP removes the fringe benefits each month.
- Flexible funds may not be used to provide additional salary support for the award winner or other faculty members.

Vilas Research Investigator Award

Overview

- Award letter is provided by the Provost's Office.
- The award covers one fiscal year; the period for which the grant is awarded is not negotiable.
- Vilas provides \$30,000 for hiring a Research Assistant (RA) or Project Assistant (PA) only.

Expenditures

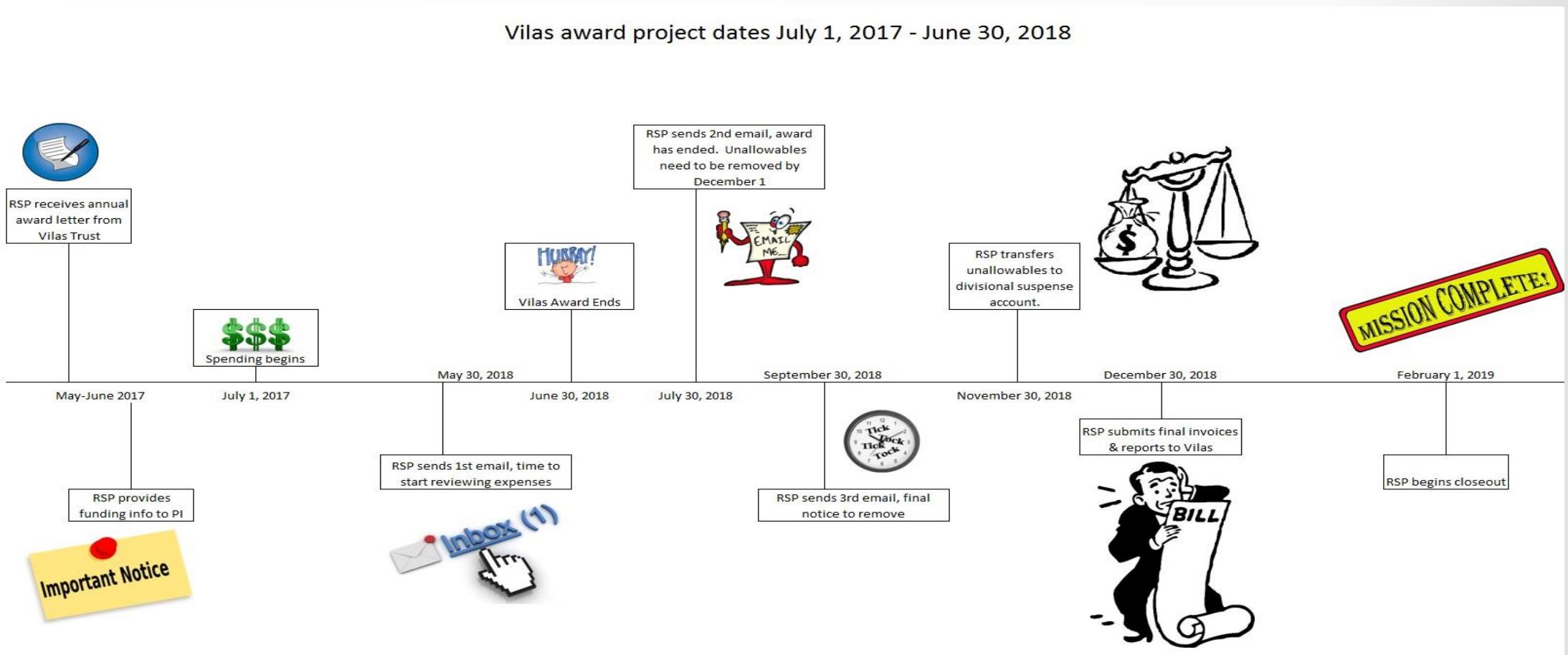
- Funds may only be used to hire an RA or PA. The associated fringe benefit and tuition remission charges will also be paid from this fund.

Vilas Lifecycle

Overview

- Award letters are provided by Women in Science & Engineering.
- These funds are provided by Vilas to help faculty who have had some major life change. For example, a serious illness or maternity leave. This could be for the individual faculty member or a family member of the faculty.
- These should be handled with discretion. Projects are setup with the faculty member as Dean and RSP as the owning department. The project edits will list the faculty members department number to allow for spending. No names should appear in WISDM or SFS.
- The award start date can vary, however the end date is the end of the fiscal year.

Vilas Award Timeline



Vilas True and False Quiz Review

1. Vilas Awards are gifts.
2. Vilas Awards have flexible end dates.
3. Vilas Associate summer salary is limited to 2/9ths of the lowest paid full Vilas Research Professor.
4. All Vilas awards can be carried over year to year.
5. Vilas funds may not be used to for scholarships, fellowships or to direct charge tuition.
6. Vilas funding is internal to University of Wisconsin-Madison.
7. Faculty who are paid on an annual basis are not eligible for the summer salary portion of a Vilas Associate award.
8. RSP removes fringe benefits from Vilas Research Professorship, Early & Mid-Career and Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professorship awards.
9. Vilas funds may not be used to provide additional salary for the faculty member other than what is budgeted.
10. Vilas awards can be used to buy alcohol.

Vilas Links and Contacts

RSP's Vilas webpage: <https://www.rsp.wisc.edu/Vilas/index.html>

RSP 2017 Symposium for Research Administrators Media Page (this PowerPoint will be posted there):
https://www.rsp.wisc.edu/training/symposium_researchAdmins2017.cfm

RSP Post-Award Accountant for Vilas Awards: Angie Stenli, astenli@rsp.wisc.edu, 608-890-3147

RSP Managing Officer overseeing Vilas Awards: John Varda, jgvarda@rsp.wisc.edu, 608-265-5918

Provost: Michael Bernard-Donals, mfbernarddon@wisc.edu, 608-262-9314 and Yvonne Quamme, yvonne.quamme@wisc.edu, 608-262-8072

OVCRGE: Mary Curran, mary.curran@wisc.edu, 608-262-4949 (Vilas Associates only)

WISELI: Jennifer Sheridan, jennifer.Sheridan@wisc.edu, 608-263-1445 (Vilas Life Cycle only)

The Truth About Vilas

Questions?

Vilas Case Study

Professor Smith received a Vilas Associates award starting July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. Per the award letter, Professor Smith receives summer salary for \$19,488 payable July, August of award year, fringe \$7,411, and flexible funds allowance for \$12,500. The first year's funding has been setup on project AAA1111 and a separate project will be provided prior to the start of the second year, July 2018.

1. Professor Smith plans to do some research travel starting June 1, 2018 and returning August 15, 2018. Can all the travel expenses be posted to year 1?
2. Professor Smith received a raise prior to the start of his Vilas award. Can Vilas funds be used to cover the salary increase?
3. Membership fees for September 1, 2017-August 30, 2018 posted to the first years Vilas award. Is this allowable?
4. The first year has ended and Professor Smith did not use the full amount of the summer salary provided. Can he use this to cover a supply purchase made June 4, 2018?