SAHARA
Account Reconciliation Application
Agenda

- SAHARA Overview
- Business Process
- Roles & Responsibilities
- Account Reconciliation
- Why Reconcile?
- Retaining Documentation
- How to Reconcile Accounts
- Adding Attachments
- Checklist
- Demo- Reconciler Process
- Questions
SAHARA Overview

- Reconciliations are required to be completed on a monthly basis. Required in order for Annual Certification to take place.
- Maintain supporting documentation.
- Signature acknowledgement (online).
  - Reconcilers
  - Account Owners
- The University of Texas System
- The University of Texas at El Paso
  - Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP);
    - Section VII, Financial Services, Chapter 5
      - Link: [https://www.utep.edu/hoop/section-7/ch-5.html](https://www.utep.edu/hoop/section-7/ch-5.html)
  - VPBA: Business Process Guidelines:
    - Budget and Financial Accounting> Account Review
SAHARA Overview
Business Process

Monthly

- Information is posted onto SAHARA
- Reconcilers perform Account Reconciliation in SAHARA
- Account Owners approve Account Reconciliation in SAHARA
# SAHARA Roles & Responsibilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Cost Center</th>
<th>Capital Project</th>
<th>Sponsored Projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reviews transactions (Reconciler)</td>
<td>🔄</td>
<td>🔄</td>
<td>🔄</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gathers supporting documentation (Reconciler)</td>
<td>🔄</td>
<td>🔄</td>
<td>🔄</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reconciles accounts (Reconciler)</td>
<td>🔄</td>
<td>🔄</td>
<td>🔄</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Account owners review and approve reconciliations (Approver)</td>
<td>🔄</td>
<td>🔄</td>
<td>🔄</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Account Reconciliation

- Reconciling is comparing information from two separate sources and providing explanations for any differences.
- For departmental purposes, this consists of comparing the supporting documentation retained by the department to the information recorded in the PeopleSoft SAHARA application.
- The process encompasses two different activities/roles:
  1. Reconcilers – retain the supporting documentation for department Funding Sources & prepare the reconciliation in SAHARA.
  2. Approvers/Account Owners - complete high-level review and approval of reconciliations.
Why Reconcile?

- Monthly reconciliations provide reasonable assurance that transactions are authorized, reasonable, allowable and correct.
- To ensure that unauthorized charges have not occurred to transactions during processing.
- Serve as an internal control to mitigate instances of fraud.
- Examples of fraud:
  - East Central University employee stole $320K worth of cash and checks by manipulating student accounts and football game receipts.
  - Ex-Yale medical school employee admits to stealing $40 million in electronics (video below).

https://youtu.be/8Dp13YWKwhc
Retaining Documentation

All documentation supporting the reconciliation is required to be uploaded and maintained in SAHARA

- When uploading attachments, name files by category and include supporting documents within each respective file.

- **Note:** Accessing external system to view supporting documents is not acceptable including Miner Mall, OneDrive, personal files, etc...
How to Reconcile Salaries

At a minimum, the department must comply with the following steps:

1. Create and attach spreadsheet comparing salary balances and headcounts for both current and prior periods, based on the SAHARA reconciliation reports.

2. Attach screen shots of prior month and current month Salaries from SAHARA reconciliation (required even if there is no change from month to month, as evidence of review).

3. **Sponsored Projects**: run query `UTE_BUDGET_TRANS_PAYROL_W_GRNT` and compare current and prior period salaries. Review accounts such as Classified, Student, Research Assistant salaries. Query is a required attachment.

4. For differences, attach supporting documentation explaining difference, such as:
   - Appointment Actions Request e-Form
   - HR Separation / Retirement e-Form
   - Additional Pay Request
   - Supplemental Authorization Request (SAR)
Reconciling Salaries in SAHARA
Reconciling Salaries in SAHARA
Reconciling Salaries in SAHARA

The Account Reconciliation Search Page will be displayed.
1. Enter details in the Search Criteria.
2. Click Search.
3. Click on the Cost Center/Project.

PeopleSoft Tips
- Reconciliation Status indicates whether period has been reconciled/approved.
When reconciling:

1. Compare salary balances for both current and prior periods
2. If differences, research and attach supporting documents

Salary GL Account will appear:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>HR Payroll</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>51101</td>
<td>SW Admin Prof</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reviewed</th>
<th>Review Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Journal Info</th>
<th>Key Values</th>
<th>Flag</th>
<th>Employee ID</th>
<th>Employee Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Job Code</th>
<th>Pay End Date</th>
<th>Trans Type</th>
<th>Trans Code</th>
<th>Paycheck Number</th>
<th>Monetary Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6001010001</td>
<td>Turner, Will</td>
<td>Assistant Director</td>
<td>10404</td>
<td>07/31/2022</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2100611704</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Coordinator</td>
<td>10407</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Turner, Will</td>
<td>Assistant Director</td>
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<td>07/31/2022</td>
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<td>2100611704</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6001010001</td>
<td>Jones, Davy</td>
<td>Assistant VP and D</td>
<td>10205</td>
<td>07/31/2022</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2100611702</td>
<td>$438.17</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Account Subtotal: $22,790.17
Faculty and Staff Reconciliation:
Salary and Headcount

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>(A) Current Month's Salaries</th>
<th>(B) Prior Month's Salaries</th>
<th>Variance (A) - (B)</th>
<th>Variance Explanation</th>
<th>Did you attach supporting documentation?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAs, GAs</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>(A) Current Month's Headcount</th>
<th>(B) Prior Month's Headcount</th>
<th>Variance (A) - (B)</th>
<th>Variance Explanation</th>
<th>Did you attach supporting documentation?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Month to month comparison is required for all periods. In the case of Period 1 (September), comparison is required against August from the previous fiscal year. For variances related to Merit Increases, include comment “This month’s variance is due to merit increases approved by the University effective 9/1/22”.

Sponsored Projects: Payroll Query Navigation

Run query UTE_BUDGET_TRANS_PAYROL_W_GRNT to compare current and prior period salaries.

From the PeopleSoft main page:
1. Click **NavBar**.
2. Click **Menu**.
3. Click **Financials**.
4. Click **Reporting Tools**.
5. Click **Query**.
6. Click **Query Viewer**.
### Sponsored Projects: Payroll Query Navigation

1. **From the Query Viewer page:**
   7. Enter query name.
   8. Click **Search**.
   9. Click **Favorite** (to add to Favorites).
   10. Click **Excel** (report will download to Excel).
   11. Enter Search Criteria
   12. Click **View Results**.

#### Query Viewer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Query Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Run to HTML</th>
<th>Run to Excel</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
<th>Definitional References</th>
<th>Add to Favorites</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UTE_BUDGET_TRANS_PAYROL_W_GRNT</td>
<td>Dept Bdgt Payroll Exp</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td></td>
<td>HTML</td>
<td>Excel</td>
<td>Schedule</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Query Details**

- **Enter Department Number**: %
- **Cost Centr**: %
- **Project**: 226999999A
- **Budget Year (YYYY)**: 2022
- **Budget Period (MM) From**: 8
- **Budget Period (MM) To**: 8

**View Results**
Sponsored Projects: Payroll Query Output

**UTE_BUDGET_TRANS_PAYROL_W_GRNT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Budget</th>
<th>Dept</th>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Function</th>
<th>PC Bus</th>
<th>Use</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Budget Posted</th>
<th>Transaction Document</th>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Account Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>56030</td>
<td>50400</td>
<td>51201</td>
<td>5100</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>UTESP</td>
<td>22699999A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>6 - 1050.00 Payroll</td>
<td>Ref. lnfl# HP10616450 Check# 2100592818 Employee ID# 609999990 - Sinatra,Frank</td>
<td>S1201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>50400</td>
<td>51204</td>
<td>5100</td>
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<td>2022</td>
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<td>S4204</td>
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<td>2022</td>
<td>-20.00 Payroll</td>
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<td>S4402</td>
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<td>S7103</td>
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<td>2022</td>
<td>-164.89 Payroll</td>
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<td>22699999A</td>
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<td>2022</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>-150.71 Payroll</td>
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<td>5100</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>UTESP</td>
<td>22699999A</td>
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<td>2022</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>-29.55 Payroll</td>
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<td>5100</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>UTESP</td>
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<td>2022</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>-4.40 Payroll</td>
<td>Ref. lnfl# HP10616450 Check# 2100592901 Employee ID# 609999993 - Knight,Glady</td>
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<td>5100</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>UTESP</td>
<td>22699999A</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>-2.43 Payroll</td>
<td>Ref. lnfl# HP10616450 Check# 2100592901 Employee ID# 609999993 - Knight,Glady</td>
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<td>500</td>
<td>UTESP</td>
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<td>2022</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>-1.93 Payroll</td>
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<td>2022</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>-3.55 Payroll</td>
<td>Ref. lnfl# HP10616450 Check# 2100592901 Employee ID# 609999993 - Knight,Glady</td>
<td>S7101</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Query is used for Sponsored Projects to compare current & prior period salaries. This is a required attachment.
How to Reconcile Wages

At a minimum, the department must comply with the following steps:

1. Attach PeopleSoft Timesheet screen shot to verify total hours. All Timesheets for different employees can be attached in one file in SAHARA.
2. Calculate pay (Hours x Rate).
3. Confirm wage expense calculated (in spreadsheet) matches the expensed amount in the SAHARA Account Reconciliation screen.
4. Investigate any differences and attach supporting documentation to confirm differences.

Note: If Timekeeper submits timesheet on behalf of the employee, a Time Record Form is required to attach.
PeopleSoft - Timesheets

**PeopleSoft Tips**

- You can also use the Print Timesheet option to display Timesheet in PDF format.
Reconciling Wages in SAHARA

The Account Reconciliation Search Page will be displayed.
1. Enter details in the Search Criteria.
2. Click Search.
3. Click on the Cost Center/Project.

PeopleSoft Tips
- Reconciliation Status indicates whether period has been reconciled/approved.
Reconciling Wages in SAHARA

Wage GL Account will appear:

When reconciling:
1. Calculate pay (Hours x Rate)
2. Confirm calculated amount matches the expensed amount in SAHARA
3. Research any differences and contact Payroll of findings
## Student Reconciliation: Wages and Headcount

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Employees</th>
<th>Wages paid current month</th>
<th>Verify calculation (hours worked x rate)</th>
<th>Did you attach supporting documentation (timesheets, rate per hours)?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other non-staff</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fringe Benefits

• No supporting documentation required.
• Verify there is little fluctuation between months. Large variations may indicate there’s a problem.
• Changes in headcount and/or salaries may explain these variances.
• Notify the Budget Office of any unexplained discrepancies in excess of 5%.
Operating Expenses

- The SAHARA module allows reconcilers to drill down on Travel and Non-Travel Expense reports & for Non-PO Vouchers and Invoices.

When reconciling:
1. Confirm drill-down matches amount in SAHARA. If the drill down provides sufficient backup, there is no need to attach additional documentation
2. After reviewing the expense, make sure to check the “Reviewed” box
Operating Expenses

The drill-down in some GL accounts may not give the reconciler all the necessary backup. In this case, the reconciler will need to attach documentation and match the expense amounts in the SAHARA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense Type</th>
<th>Reconciliation Steps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| ProCard Transactions         | 1. Attach approved monthly ProCard Summary log.  
                                2. Individual receipts should be maintained within the CitiBank ProCard reconciliation.                                                          |
| Miner Mall Transactions      | 1. Attach invoices and/or receipts from vendors.  
                                2. All invoices/receipts for the period can be attached in one file in SAHARA.                                                                  |
| (PO Voucher)                 |                                                                                                                                                     |
| Scholarships (Banner)        | 1. Attach query UTE_DEPT_RECON_BANNER_COSTCTR (Cost Centers).  
                                2. Attach query UTE_DEPT_RECON_BANNER_PROJECT (Sponsored Projects).  
                                3. Attach internal reconciled worksheet(s).  
                                4. Review and validate student’s names are correct.                                                                                             |
Operating Expenses - Inter-Department Transfers (IDTs)

The reconciler will need to attach supporting documentation and match the expensed amounts in SAHARA for any SC028 Journal types.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IDT Type</th>
<th>Reconciliation Steps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Facility Service Work Orders  | 1. Go to Facilities website [https://tma.utep.edu/servicedesk](https://tma.utep.edu/servicedesk) to access workorders/invoices for amounts expensed.  
                                       2. Attach invoice/bill that details the service provided and amounts charged. |
| Long Distance Log             | 1. Attach long distance logs detailing phone calls charged to your department.         
                                       2. Email ITBilling@utep.edu for supporting documentation if logs are not available in your department. |
| HR Criminal Background Checks | 1. Attach screenshot of the completed Background Check Request form.                   
                                       2. Contact HR to obtain supporting documentation if not available in your department. |
| Sodexo                        | 1. Attach Sodexo invoice                                                              |

Use query UTE_DEPT_RECON_IDT_COSTCTR (Cost Centers) or UTE_DEPT_RECON_IDT_PROJECT (Sponsored Projects) for additional detail on transactions.
Reconciling Operating Expenses in SAHARA

The Account Reconciliation Search Page will be displayed.

1. Enter details in the **Search Criteria**.
2. Click **Search**.
3. Click on the **Cost Center/Project**.

**PeopleSoft Tips**
- Reconciliation Status indicates whether period has been reconciled/approved.
Reconciling Operating Expenses in SAHARA

4. Expense Summary: YTD Actuals Expense (Fiscal YTD – 2020). PTD Actuals Expense (Project to Date – Inception)

5. Revenue Summary: YTD Actuals Revenue (Fiscal YTD – 2020). PTD Actuals Revenue (Project to Date – Inception).

6. Revenue / Expenses for the Period: Month to Date activity
Reconciling Operating Expenses in SAHARA-Download

7. Download Actuals.
8. Download to Excel.
Reconciling Operating Expenses in SAHARA-Download

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Accounting Period</th>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Cost Center</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Monetary Amount</th>
<th>User Char 3</th>
<th>Exp Doc ID</th>
<th>Journal ID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>7</td>
<td>63004</td>
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<td>19080000</td>
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Note: Once all documents identified, gather all supporting documentation that supports transactions.
## Reconciling Operating Expenses in SAHARA

12. Cross check by filtering on **Account** column.

13. Verify total to SAHARA reconciliation GL Account #.

### Expense Table

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Accounting Period</th>
<th>Cost Center</th>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Monetary Amount</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total:** 1,400.00
Reconciling Operating Expenses in SAHARA

15. **Review** Subtotal.
16. **Review** Amounts
17. **Once Reviewed**, click “Reviewed” box
SAHARA – Adding Attachments

1. Click on Attachments link.
2. Click **Add Attachment**.
3. Click **Choose File**.
5. Select **Save**.
6. Select **Return to Previous Page**.
7. The number of attachments saved will appear.
Reconciling in SAHARA – Adding Comments

1. Enter general comments under Reconciler Comments section (optional).
2. Save Comments
3. To leave specific comments on individual accounts, click on the text box icon.
Reconciling in SAHARA – Adding Flag

1. Enter specific comment under Reconciler Comments.
2. Save and Return.
3. Click on the flag - This allows the account to be “Flagged.”
Reconciling in SAHARA – Removing Flag

1. Click on Flag.
2. Click “Yes” to remove flag.
3. Click “OK”
4. Update or remove comment.
5. Save and Return to Previous Page
Reconciling in SAHARA

1. Once transactions have been reviewed, scroll to top of page (Reconciliation section).
2. Click “Reconciliation” box.
3. Save.
Review Checklist

Reviewers should consider the following:

1. Do the transactions appear appropriate for department/University business?
2. Are there any suspicious transactions?
3. Is there documented evidence of review (i.e. the reviewer has noted transactions)?
4. Has the reviewer explained any unrecognized transactions?
Demo
Appraiser

Things to Know:

1. To access the approval page, select the SAHARA Monthly Reconciliation tile and fill in “Search Criteria.”
2. The approval process will be completed by checking the “Approved” box and clicking “Save”.

Melody Vasquez 6001444444
Alejandra Torres 6001555555
Questions?
THANK YOU!