

Introduction

At the request of the Office of the Provost, the Office of the SVPR sought to identify and conduct initial vetting of potential external vendors that could provide peer review services for manuscripts and proposals. Based on exploratory feedback from several current and former vendors of these and related services, “peer review” terminology was clarified and for the purpose of this outreach further differentiated between substantive review and editorial services. The following list of vendors were identified through the process described below. Although vendors listed here have gone through an initial vetting process, members of the Emory community are encouraged to compare offerings from vendors as specific needs arise. The focus of this vendor identification was on external vendors. Existing resources that are available within some units at Emory University were not included. For clarity, these vendors are not “Preferred Vendors” as defined and managed by the Office of Procurement.

Outreach and Down Selection

Potential vendors were identified leveraging the Office of SVPR’s national network. Potential vendors ranged from well-established businesses to sole proprietors. Vendors were invited to complete a questionnaire that collected information about the services provided, experience, pricing, contracting minimums, preferences, and references. The funnel of outreach and responses is as follows:

- 71 potential vendors contacted
- 39 vendors initiated a response to the questionnaire
- 25 vendors completed a response to the questionnaire
- 9 vendors could not be advanced because they did not provide references
- 3 did not pass the reference check (average score of 3 or lower of 5-point scale and/or significant concerns in qualitative responses)

The remaining 13 vendors are listed below.

Disclaimers

- This information was collected during the summer of 2024; information is subject to change.
- The hourly rates are provided to inform your budgeting and decision-making. These rates are not guaranteed. Many vendors offer customized packages for service bundles and longer-term contracts. Some vendors charge a higher rate for “rush” services.
- Turn-around time is not guaranteed but provided to inform your decision-making and planning.
- Some vendors, as indicated, expressed a strong preference for centralized management.
- Although review services were the focus of this inquiry, several vendors also provide training and more comprehensive proposal development support.

Suggested Vendors Providing Peer Review Services For Manuscripts and Proposals

Name and Email	References' Rating (5 stars = best)	Hourly Rate and Turn-Around Time	Notes on Contracting
Peg Atkisson peg@atkissontraininggroup.com Services: - Substantive review of manuscripts - Editorial support for manuscripts - Substantive review of proposals	Ability ★★★★★ Knowledge ★★★★★ Reliability ★★★★★ Timeliness ★★★★★ Communication ★★★★★	Hourly rate: \$250-\$300 Needs 6-8 weeks notice	No minimums but 4-6 month engagements are typical
Erin Bank latentlollygagger@gmail.com Services: - Substantive review of manuscripts - Editorial support for manuscripts - Substantive review of proposals - Editorial support for proposals	Ability ★★★★★ Knowledge ★★★★★ Reliability ★★★★★ Timeliness ★★★★★ Communication ★★★★★	Hourly rate: \$150-\$200 Needs 2-4 weeks notice	No minimums
Kristin Beck kanngbeck@gmail.com Services: - Editorial support for manuscripts - Editorial support for proposals	Ability ★★★★★ Knowledge ★★★★★ Reliability ★★★★★ Timeliness ★★★★★ Communication ★★★★★	Hourly rate: \$40-\$150 Turnaround: 1-2 weeks	No minimums
Kristen Bennet kbennett@kbscience.com Services: - Substantive review of manuscripts - Editorial support for manuscripts - Substantive review of proposals - Editorial support for proposals	Ability ★★★★★ Knowledge ★★★★★ Reliability ★★★★★ Timeliness ★★★★★ Communication ★★★★★	Hourly rate: N/A Large center proposal: \$125,000-\$225,000 Needs 6-8 weeks notice	Retainer: 1-2 years or major project *Strongly prefers central POC who prioritizes work and single contract for entire university
Maureen Bonnefin maureen@affinitygrants.com Services: Substantive review of proposals	Ability ★★★★★ Knowledge ★★★★★ Reliability ★★★★★ Timeliness ★★★★★ Communication ★★★★★	Hourly rate: \$150-\$250 Needs 6-8 weeks notice	Minimum by project: \$5,000

• Editorial support for proposals			
Sheila Cherry sheila.cherry@career-volt.com Services: • Substantive review of manuscripts • Editorial support for manuscripts • Substantive review of proposals • Editorial support for proposals	Ability ★★★★★ Knowledge ★★★★★ Reliability ★★★★★ Timeliness ★★★★★ Communication ★★★★★	Hourly rate: \$195 No information on turn-around time provided	No minimums but 4-6 month engagements are typical
Larry Gilman lgilman909@gmail.com Services: • Editorial support for manuscripts • Editorial support for proposals	Ability ★★★★★ Knowledge ★★★★★ Reliability ★★★★★ Timeliness ★★★★★ Communication ★★★★★	Hourly rate: \$130 Turnaround: 1-2 weeks	No minimums
April Gocha contrast.science.communications@gmail.com Services: • Substantive review of manuscripts • Editorial support for manuscripts • Substantive review of proposals • Editorial support for proposals	Ability ★★★★★ Knowledge ★★★★★ Reliability ★★★★★ Timeliness ★★★★★ Communication ★★★★★	Hourly rate for proposals: \$170 Hourly rate for manuscripts: \$250–\$750 Turnaround: 1-2 weeks	No minimums
Karen Klein kpkleinn@gmail.com Services: • Substantive review of manuscripts • Editorial support for manuscripts • Substantive review of proposals • Editorial support for proposals	Ability ★★★★★ Knowledge ★★★★★ Reliability ★★★★★ Timeliness ★★★★★ Communication ★★★★★	Hourly rate: \$150 Turnaround: 1-2 weeks	No minimums
Marta Collier Youngblood marta@askyoungblood.com Services: • Substantive review of manuscripts • Editorial support for manuscripts • Substantive review of proposals	Ability ★★★★★ Knowledge ★★★★★ Reliability ★★★★★ Timeliness ★★★★★ Communication ★★★★★	Hourly rate: \$250-\$300 Needs 4 weeks notice	Retainer: 6 months x 20 hours per month *Strongly prefers central POC who prioritizes work

Editorial support for proposals			and single contract for entire university
Rick Nader Naderrick2020@gmail.com Services: - Substantive review of proposals - Editorial support for proposals	Ability ★★★★★☆ Knowledge ★★★★★ Reliability ★★★★★ Timeliness ★★★★★ Communication ★★★★★☆	Hourly rate: \$150-\$225 Turnaround: 1-2 weeks	No minimums
Wendy Spitzer wendyspitzer@email.com Services: - Editorial support for manuscripts - Editorial support for proposals	Ability ★★★★★☆ Knowledge ★★★★★☆ Reliability ★★★★★ Timeliness ★★★★★ Communication ★★★★★	Hourly rate: \$75-\$110 Turnaround: 1-2 weeks	No minimums
Jana Watson Capps jana@watsoncapps.com Services: - Editorial support for manuscripts - Editorial support for proposals	Ability ★★★★★ Knowledge ★★★★★ Reliability ★★★★★ Timeliness ★★★★★ Communication ★★★★★	Hourly rate: \$210 Turnaround: 1-2 weeks	No minimums