ABC 2015 Fall Summit

Travel Fundamentals

Marc Benadiba
Associate Controller, Fiscal Services
September 10, 2015

Agenda

- CSU Travel Policy and Scope
- Traveler and Approving Officials
- Travel Pre-Authorization Requirements
- Travel Advances
- Travel Reimbursements and Rates
- Personal Travel Combined with Business Travel
- International Travel and Taxability
- General Travel Reminders
Policy Overview

- University travel is conducted in accordance with the CSU Travel Policy, released by the Chancellor’s Office in 2011

Who is subject to this Policy?
- Cal Poly – University
- Cal Poly – Corporation
- Cal Poly – Foundation
- Cal Poly – ASI

EVERYONE!

Including Students!
Travel Policy

Traveler’s Responsibilities

- Receive documented pre-authorization to travel, which includes purpose and inclusive dates of trip
- Submitting a travel claim for reimbursement the traveler makes the following explicit certifications
  - Travel was for official university business
  - Actually spent the amount for listed expenses
  - Verified the amount due is accurate
  - Has not and will not seek reimbursement for amounts previously reimbursed

Approving Officials

- Who is considered an approving official?
  - Employees with the following employment classification or higher with chartfield authority over the funds being used:
    - Department Head
    - Department Chair
    - MPP
    - Confidential

Note: University Campus Program funds and Cal Poly Corporation Funds may have different approval protocol on file
Travel Policy

Approving Official Inquiries

- The approving official should have an understanding of the purpose of the travel in order to ensure the following:
  - Is the trip required for the individual’s job?
  - Is there any personal travel being included with the reimbursement request?
  - Is the travel being conducted in the most cost effective manner. e.g. is the trip cost going up considerably due to poor planning?
  - Is the traveler taking the most direct route?
  - Are there any upgrades included?

Approving Official Responsibilities

- Reviewing business purpose for the trip
- Ensuring the request is in compliance with the CSU Travel Policy
- Ensuring funding sources used allow the types of expenses submitted
- Approving/denying payment of the travel claim in a timely manner
- Denying expenses not directly related to official University business
Travel Policy

All Travel Must be Pre-Authorized

- Source of funding does not change requirement
- Entity issuing travel reimbursement doesn’t change requirement. e.g. CPC, CPF, CPSU
- Travel pre-authorization is documented via the Travel Pre-Authorization Form (1A)
- Department retains the Form 1A
- Form 1A copy is forwarded to the Travel Office prior to travel only if a Travel Advance is required
- Form 1A must accompany the Travel Claim Form when submitted to the Travel Office for processing
Travel Policy

Travel Advances

- Travel Advances are requested via the Form 1A
- Advances must be requested at least 15 days prior to your departure date.
- Advances may not be requested more than 30 days prior to departure date unless the advance is being requested to secure better pricing and the funds will be spent.
  - Note: advances requested > 30 days in advance require a written justification

Travel Policy

Meal Reimbursements for Domestic Travel

- CSU Travel Policy allows traveler to claim actual meal expenses incurred up to a $55 cap per day
- Meals do not need to be substantiated by a receipt unless the individual meal is $25 or more
- Per the CSU Travel Policy, the $55 cap shall not be used as a per diem
  
  Example: If you spent $10/$15/$20 on breakfast/lunch/dinner, then you should only be claiming $45 in meals for the day, not $55
Travel Policy
Meal Reimbursements for Domestic Partial-Day Travel

- Departure Day Travel
  - If you leave prior to 8am, you can claim up to $55
  - If you leave prior to 12pm, you can claim up to two-thirds of the $55 maximum ($36.66)
  - If you leave prior to 6pm, you can claim up to one-third of the $55 maximum ($18.34)

- Arrival Day Travel
  - If you return after 9am, you can claim up to one-third of the $55 maximum ($18.34)
  - If you return after 2pm, you can claim up to two-thirds of the $55 maximum ($36.66)
  - If you return after 6pm, you can claim up to $55 in meals expenses
Travel Policy

Meals for < 24 Hour Travel

- If travel includes an overnight stay then meal expenses incurred may be reimbursed up to the $55 cap
- If travel does not include an overnight stay then breakfast and dinner expenses incurred may be reimbursed up to the $55 cap and will be treated as income for payroll tax purposes
- Under no circumstances will lunch expenses be reimbursed for < 24 hour travel

Travel Policy

Incidental Reimbursements for Domestic Travel

- Reimbursement for incidental expenses incurred are capped at $7 per day
- No incidental expense reimbursement for the first day of travel

Examples:
Incidentals can include tips to baggage carriers, mailing costs, hotel business center charges, etc.
Travel Policy

Lodging Reimbursements for Domestic Travel

- Lodging expenses are claimed
- Expenses claimed should be reasonable
- Itemized hotel receipts are always required.
- Nightly rate, excluding taxes, cannot exceed $195 unless supported with justification and pre-approval
  - >$195 justification is documented and approved on the Travel Pre-Authorization Form, or on a memo attached
  - Example justification: The conference rate for the hotel attended exceeded $195.

Travel Policy

Mileage Reimbursements—Domestic Travel

- Mileage is reimbursed at 57.5 cents per mile
- Rate includes reimbursement for fuel, insurance, registration and wear and tear
- Travelers using a private vehicle should not submit actual fuel charges for reimbursement (only allowed for rental car arrangements)
- In order to travel using a privately owned vehicle you must have an “Authorization to use Privately owned vehicle on State Business” on file in your department
I hereby certify that the above is a true statement of the travel expenses incurred by me in accordance with applicable California State University procedures and that all items shown were for the official business of The California State University. If a privately owned vehicle was used, and if mileage rates exceed the minimum rate, I certify that the cost of operating the vehicle was equal to or greater than the rate claimed, and that I have met the requirements as prescribed by SAM Sections 0750, 0752, 0753 and 0754 pertaining to vehicle safety and seat belt usage.

CLAIMANT'S SIGNATURE

DATE APPROVING OFFICIAL SIGNATURE (Must have signature authority on chartfieds listed, and hold a minimum employment classification of MPP, Dept. Head, Dept. Chair, or Confidential.)

### Rates for Lodging, Meals and Incidental Expenses

Rates for Lodging, Meals and Incidental Expenses vary depending on whether you are traveling in the U.S. or internationally.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Rate (per diem)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Domestic</td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rates for the U.S. travel - see grid on the "Rates" tab at abc.afd.calpoly.edu
Travel Policy

International Travel
- Significantly different than domestic travel
- Meals and incidentals are combined per day and claimed for amounts incurred up to the published federal government per diem
  - No receipts required
- Lodging expenses incurred are claimed up to the published federal government per diem
  - Receipts always required
- The per diem amounts should be used as a cap
- The Federal government per diems can be found at the bottom of the Travel Claim Form

Meal Reimbursements for International Partial-Day Travel
- For partial days, hours should be rounded to the nearest quarter day and then applied to the applicable federal per diem rate:
  - 3 hours up to 9 hours equals 1/4 day or 25%
  - 9 hours up to 15 hours equals 1/2 day or 50%
  - 15 hours up to 21 hours equals 3/4 day or 75%
  - 21 hours up to 24 hours equals 1 day or 100%
Travel Policy

International Travel

- Authorization to travel internationally must be obtained through the Cal Poly International Center (CPIC) prior to making any arrangements and must be approved by the Provost
- CPIC’s web site contains the required pre-authorization documents and walks the traveler thru the process step by step
- Due to an elevated level of risk and higher cost, international travel must be planned well in advance
  - See CPIC’s website for planning timeframes

---

Traveler:

signature __________ point name __________ date __________

☐ In accordance with CSU Policy, this travel serves mission-critical needs for the University.

Appointing Official:

signature __________ point name __________ position __________ date __________

---

International Travel Requires the Following Additional Approvals:

Dean:

signature __________ point name __________ date __________

Provost:

signature __________ point name __________ date __________

† Must have signature authority on chartfields listed, and hold an employment classification of MPP, Dept. Head, Dept. Chair or Confidential
I hereby certify that the above is a true statement of the travel expenses incurred by me in accordance with applicable California State University procedures and that all items shown were for the official business of The California State University. If a privately owned vehicle was used, and if mileage rates exceed the minimum rate, I certify that the cost of operating the vehicle was equal to or greater than the rate claimed, and that I have met the requirements as prescribed by SAM Sections 0750, 0752, 0753 and 0754 pertaining to vehicle safety and seat belt usage.

CLAIMANT’S SIGNATURE

DATE APPROVING OFFICIAL SIGNATURE (Must have signature authority on chartfields listed, and hold a minimum employment classification of MPP, Dept. Head, Dept. Chair, or Confidential.)

---

**NOTE:** Rates for Lodging, Meals and Incidental Expenses vary depending on whether you are traveling in the U.S. or internationally.

Rates for U.S. travel: See grid on the "Rates" tab

Rates for international travel: [http://aoprals.state.gov/web920/per_diem.asp](http://aoprals.state.gov/web920/per_diem.asp)

Revised 3/16/15
Travel Policy

International Business Travel Combined with Personal Travel

- Depending on the amount of personal travel days that you combine with your Cal Poly travel, some of your travel costs could be subject to income tax.
- The CSU has adopted IRS standards to determine when and if the combination of personal and business travel creates a taxable event for the traveler.

Travel Policy

According to the IRS there is a taxable event if both of the following conditions are met:

- The total period of the trip is longer than one week and
- At least 25% of the trip is personal.
Travel Policy

Travel Claim Form reminders

- List any Travel Advances received on the Travel Claim Form
- List the time AND date of departure and arrival
- Submit Travel Claim Form and Travel Pre-Authorization Form within 10 days of trip return
- Include travel expenses not incurred by the traveler (aka direct bill charges):
  - Airfare through Giselle’s Travel
  - Rental car from Enterprise
  - Conference Fees paid via University ProCard
- Any travel expense <$25 requires no receipt (CPC has same standard)
- Do not submit documentation with your travel claim that is not pertinent to audit and payment. PLEASE!

Travel Processing - New Process

- Original travel documents submitted to State accounts payable for processing may now be submitted via email* of scanned documents.
  - Paper submission still allowed (being phased out)
  - Departments strongly encouraged to send digitally
  - Scan and email can be done via dept. copiers
    - Make sure to have the copier send you an email and then forward the email to our email below. i.e. don’t send directly from copier to accounts payable
    - Make sure the scan is legible, i.e. open the attachment to ensure it’s readable before emailing the document

* accounts-payable@calpoly.edu
Travel Processing - New Process (cont.)

- One email per document being submitted i.e. if you’re sending 3 travel claims then accounts payable should be receiving 3 emails
- Department should retain original copy of emailed document until payment has been issued by accounts payable

- Communications to notify departments of missing travel documentation will be handled via email of scanned copies

Expediting Your Travel Reimbursement

- Travel claims submitted incorrectly to accounts payable guarantee that your reimbursement request will be delayed
- 50% to 60% of the claims submitted are incorrect and require the accounts payable technician to follow up with the department
- Some of the most common problems we experience:
  - Missing or non-itemized receipts
  - Hotel > $195 without authorization
  - Travel Pre-authorization not included with claim
  - Hand entered forms
  - Wrong/old form used
Travel Policy

- Reference Materials:
  - Cal Poly Travel Web Page
  - Cal Poly Forms
    [http://afd.calpoly.edu/fiscalservices/forms.asp](http://afd.calpoly.edu/fiscalservices/forms.asp)

Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Entity</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marc Benadiba</td>
<td>University</td>
<td>Associate Controller Fiscal Services</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mbenadib@calpoly.edu">mbenadib@calpoly.edu</a></td>
<td>756-5864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francie Murphee</td>
<td>University</td>
<td>Accounts Payable Lead</td>
<td><a href="mailto:fmurphee@calpoly.edu">fmurphee@calpoly.edu</a></td>
<td>756-6092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beatrice Jones</td>
<td>University</td>
<td>Accounts Payable-Travel</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bjones35@calpoly.edu">bjones35@calpoly.edu</a></td>
<td>756-1717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cindy Boone</td>
<td>Cal Poly Corporation</td>
<td>Accounting Manager</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cmboone@calpoly.edu">cmboone@calpoly.edu</a></td>
<td>756-2457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia Perez</td>
<td>Cal Poly Corporation</td>
<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
<td><a href="mailto:furtadop@calpoly.edu">furtadop@calpoly.edu</a></td>
<td>756-1125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer McCarthy</td>
<td>University</td>
<td>University Campus Programs Analyst</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jcmccart@calpoly.edu">jcmccart@calpoly.edu</a></td>
<td>756-6116</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AFD Business Connection

Thank you for attending!