

15.01 Research Agreements

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Policy Statement

This policy provides the chief executive officers (CEOs) of The Texas A&M University System (system) and its respective system members with a structure for conducting research.

Reason for Policy

This policy defines the CEOs and respective system members' research-related duties and administrative responsibilities.

Procedures and Responsibilities

1. RESEARCH POLICY

- 1.1 The CEO of each system member shall submit for chancellor approval the procedures for implementing research projects funded by federal, state, commercial, gift, or specific donated funds.
- 1.2 Each CEO shall assure that research conducted is consistent with the mission of the system member and the system.
- 1.3 Each CEO shall assure that all research conducted at the system member complies with all applicable system, local, state, and federal policies, regulations, and guidelines.
- 1.4 Annually, the chancellor shall receive a report from each CEO detailing ongoing research projects. Such reports shall be made available to the system Board of Regents (board) on request.
- 1.5 Each CEO shall establish procedures to assure that researchers are aware of, and compliant with, all applicable research policies, regulations, and guidelines; and

noncompliance shall be grounds for dismissal of the individual and/or suspension of the project.

2. INITIATION OF AGREEMENTS

It shall be the policy of the system to cooperate whenever possible, within the limits of its means and responsibilities, with individuals, government agencies, corporations or other outside parties in the solution of problems of mutual interest. The initiative for effecting such cooperative arrangements, including the establishment of grants-in-aid for the support of research work, may be assumed either by a system member or by an outside party.

3. CONTROL OF RESEARCH PRODUCTS

In general, the results of investigations by, or under the direction of, the research or teaching staffs of the system during the course of their regularly assigned duties shall become the property of the system and shall be so used and controlled as to produce the greatest benefit to the public and to the system.

4. ADVERTISING POLICY

If the results expected from a cooperative undertaking are such that the outside party desires to use the name of the system or a system member in its advertising, provisions for such use shall be included in a written agreement. Advertising referring to these results shall be so worded as not to imply the endorsement by any system member or the system of a specific product or producer, and shall reflect credit upon the system, its personnel and its activities.

5. RELATIONSHIPS WITH TEXAS A&M RESEARCH FOUNDATION

5.1 The Texas A&M Research Foundation (the Foundation), acting at the request of the system and/or its members, enters into various grant and contractual agreements with entities external to the system for the conduct of research and other activities. These activities, referred to as "projects," are performed cooperatively through the use of facilities and personnel of the system and the Foundation. The interests of the system and the Foundation are the same in the performance of these projects: the fulfillment of the system's missions of education, research and service to the citizens of the state of Texas and the nation.

5.2 The chancellor shall develop and maintain a master agreement setting forth the relationship between the Foundation and the system. Such agreement shall be approved by the board. System members may implement addendum agreements specifying practices and procedures relating to their relationship with the Foundation. The master agreement shall provide that the primary role of the Foundation is to administer business affairs, serving as the contracting office and representative of the system in relations with the sponsors and prospective sponsors. The master agreement shall also address the questions of ownership and use of equipment acquired with sponsor funds, and other matters pertinent to the relationship.

5.3 The Foundation may act on behalf of the system, the system member, and the Foundation in accepting and administering grants, agreements or contracts with

external entities for the conduct of projects, to be carried out in whole or in part through the use of system facilities and personnel. Project awards received by the Foundation that were not preceded by an approved proposal must be so approved before acceptance.

5.4 All direct and facilities and administrative costs received on sponsored projects, apart from that retained by the Foundation according to agreements with system members and/or the system, shall be remitted to the system member.

5.5 In negotiating and administering sponsored projects, the Foundation will observe and comply with the system's policies concerning intellectual property.

6. RELATIONSHIPS WITH DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATIONS

Relationships with development foundations and similar support organizations are described in System Policy 60.01, *Relationships with Affiliated Organizations*.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

[System Policy 17.01, *Intellectual Property Management and Commercialization*](#)

[System Policy 60.01, *Relationships with Affiliated Organizations*](#)

[System Regulation 15.99.01, *Use of Human Subjects in Research*](#)

[System Regulation 15.99.03, *Ethics in Research and Scholarship*](#)

[System Regulation 15.99.04, *State Review of Federal Grants and Loans*](#)

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