

Openness of Research and Publication of Results

The traditions of free exchange of ideas and prompt dissemination of knowledge are fundamental to the University's mission and should govern all research, teaching, and service activities conducted by University faculty, staff and students. The University is committed to an open teaching and research environment, which ensures free faculty and student exchange of ideas, thereby contributing to the advancement of knowledge in all disciplines. As far as possible, the acceptance of support external to the University should not create situations which curtail open discussion of the research among colleagues and students.

Industry typically treats the products of its research in a very confidential manner. On occasion, industry expects project participants to maintain the same degree of confidentiality with sponsored research. It is important to note that openness, freedom of discussion, and freedom to publish go to the very core of the University. Nonetheless, there are certain legitimate needs for confidentiality on the part of industry that must be met by Sponsored Research investigators. Data received from an industry sponsor and marked "confidential" may be kept in a confidential status for a stated period of time. Also, it is prudent to recognize the need to maintain the confidential status of the results of the project for a period of time sufficient to determine patentability and filing of patent applications or as agreed upon in an agreement between the sponsor and the University. When appropriate, the University may enter into confidential agreements to protect proprietary information, where this is deemed necessary, either through direct agreement with an industrial sponsor or through an agreement between the sponsor and a University employee.

The campus official responsible for administration of research or other campus official designated by the Chancellor must ensure that all individuals who participate in industry-sponsored research projects are fully informed in writing of the ownership and disposition of inventions and requirements of confidentiality regarding research results and other confidential information provided by the sponsors of such projects.

Research conducted by faculty under industry or other commercial sponsorship must, as far as possible, maintain the University's open teaching, research, and service environment.

The campus official responsible for administration of research or Chancellor's designee must review and approve any new, proposed, or ongoing faculty-industry interactions as these interactions might compromise the University's open teaching and research environment. The appropriate department chair(s) or director(s), dean(s), and in rare circumstances, the individual designated to perform the complete administrative review as described in Section 1--shall aid in this process and shall seek to resolve all potential problems prior to the approval of such interaction.

The campus official responsible for administration of research or Chancellor's designee shall from time to time provide current information to the department chairs, deans, directors and faculty pertinent information for timely reporting of concerns regarding violation of the Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Commitment policy.

Faculty must have the right to disseminate their research results, indeed are obligated to do so. The University discourages individual faculty from agreeing to forego this basic right. Likewise, the University will not unilaterally forego this right on behalf of its faculty, staff and students. However, the University

7 An example of such a circumstance would be research performed pursuant to a contract with an agency of the federal government requiring security clearance.

and faculty may accept reasonable delays in submission of new findings for publication or other release of information to enable sponsors or the University to obtain proprietary or patent protection, for example. In special circumstances to be determined by the University, a researcher may waive his or her right to Chapter 3. Terms and Conditions of Employment RP-101 disseminate the results of his or her research and elect to enter an agreement to maintain the confidentiality of proprietary research for specified periods of time.⁷

The campus official responsible for administration of research or Chancellor's designee shall work with faculty engaged in industry-sponsored projects to provide written notification to support personnel and students involved in these projects, describing all contract and grant terms affecting them, including the possibility of delays in publication caused by the need of the sponsor to review manuscripts or any other obligations of confidentiality. Graduate students must not be assigned to thesis research topics which might be affected by confidential agreements. The appropriate campus official or Chancellor's designee may authorize exceptions where appropriate.

⁷ An example of such a circumstance would be research performed pursuant to a contract with an agency of the federal government requiring security clearance.