

## 15.01 Research Agreements

Revised [February 8, 2018](#) (MO -2018)  
Next Scheduled Review: February 8, 2023  
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### Policy Statement

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This policy provides the vice chancellor for research (VCR) and the chief executive officers (CEOs) of The Texas A&M University System (system) and its respective members with a structure for conducting research and defines the VCR's, CEOs' and respective members' research-related duties and administrative responsibilities.

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### Policy

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#### 1. RESEARCH POLICY

1.1 The VCR shall submit for chancellor approval the process for administering sponsored research projects funded by federal, state, commercial or non-profit funds in accordance with System Policy *15.04, Sponsored Research Services*.

1.1.1 Member employees will route research proposals, grants, and contracts through the member to which they are administratively located (adloc) unless the CEO of such member authorizes routing through a different member.

1.1.2 When a principal investigator (PI) has one or more joint appointments with other members, the administrative location (adloc) shall serve as the indicator of the primary administrator and employer of the PI for proposal, grant, and contract administration, unless Sections 1.1.3, 1.1.4 and 1.1.5 apply.

1.1.3 All research proposals, grants, and contracts originating with a lead PI who is a faculty member at Texas A&M University (Texas A&M) and adloc'd to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences shall be routed through, approved, and administered by Texas A&M AgriLife Research (AgriLife Research). In cases where AgriLife Research is not eligible to administer the grant or contract, or at AgriLife Research's election, the grant or contract will be submitted and administered by Texas A&M. Indirect cost return for these grants and contracts will follow the guidelines as mutually agreed to by Texas A&M, AgriLife Research and Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES). AgriLife Research will obtain approval from Texas A&M for proposals, grants and contracts focused on non-research objectives and committing Texas A&M to deliverables (e.g., course work and degree development).

1.1.4 All research proposals, grants, and contracts originating with a lead PI who is a faculty member at Texas A&M and adloc'd to the College of Engineering shall be routed through, approved, and administered by TEES. In cases where TEES is not eligible to administer the grant or contract, or at TEES' election, the grant

or contract will be submitted and administered by Texas A&M. Indirect cost return for these grants and contracts will follow the guidelines as mutually agreed to by Texas A&M, TEES and AgriLife Research. TEES will obtain approval from Texas A&M for proposals, grants and contracts focused on non-research objectives and committing Texas A&M to deliverables (e.g., course work and degree development).

- 1.1.5 All research proposals, grants, and contracts originating with a lead PI who is a faculty member at Texas A&M and adloc'd to the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences shall be routed through, approved, and administered by either AgriLife Research or Texas A&M as determined by the Dean of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, at the Dean's discretion as confirmed in writing. Indirect cost return for these grants and contracts will follow the guidelines as mutually agreed to by Texas A&M, AgriLife Research and TEES.
- 1.2 The procedures required by Section 1.1 will exclude the administration of research projects or research-related activities not required to be administered by SRS under Section 4, System Policy *15.04* (collectively "Excepted Research Projects or Research-Related Activities"). Each member CEO shall submit for chancellor approval guidelines for administering Excepted Research Projects or Research-Related Activities.
- 1.3 Each CEO shall assure that all research conducted is consistent with the mission of the member and the system.
- 1.4 Each CEO shall assure that all research conducted at the member complies with all applicable system, local, state and federal policies, regulations and guidelines. Furthermore, each CEO shall ensure that member employees follow the research compliance requirements as set forth in System Policy. Texas A&M, AgriLife Research and TEES shall coordinate their efforts as they relate to Texas A&M faculty performing under grants or contracts awarded to AgriLife Research and TEES, to enhance and appropriately manage research compliance.
- 1.5 Annually, the chancellor shall receive a report from the VCR detailing ongoing sponsored research projects and a report from each CEO detailing ongoing Excepted Research Projects or Research-Related Activities.
- 1.6 The VCR shall establish procedures to assure that sponsored projects are administered in compliance with the sponsor's applicable policies and regulations. Noncompliance with the sponsor's applicable policies and regulations shall be reported to and be resolved by the appropriate CEO or designee, in consultation with the VCR.

## 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 member or by an outside party.

### 3. CONTROL OF RESEARCH PRODUCTS

Except as otherwise described in System Policy *17.01, Intellectual Property Management and Commercialization*, 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 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 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 DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATIONS

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

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## Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

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[System Regulation 15.01.01, Sponsored Agreements – Research and Other](#)

[System Regulation 15.01.04, Time and Effort Reporting](#)

[System Policy 15.04, Sponsored Research Services](#)

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

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

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

[System Regulation 21.05.01, Gifts, Donations, Grants and Endowments](#)

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

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## Member Rule Requirements

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A rule is not required to supplement this policy.

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## Contact Office

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Office of Vice Chancellor for Research  
(979) 458-6000

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