

21.05 Gifts, Donations, Grants and Endowments

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Policy Statement

This policy provides The Texas A&M University System (system) members with authority, guidance and restrictions for the acceptance of gifts, donations, grants and endowments.

Reason for Policy

This policy delegates authority to the chancellor and/or each system member chief executive officer (CEO) to accept gifts, donations, grants and endowments on behalf of the respective system member subject to certain limitations.

Procedures and Responsibilities

1. GENERAL

Texas Education Code, Section 85.21, specifically authorizes the system Board of Regents (board), upon terms and conditions acceptable to it, to accept and administer gifts, donations, grants and endowments, from any source, for use by the system or any of its members.

2. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

By this policy, and subject to the restrictions outlined in this policy, the board delegates authority for the acceptance of gifts, donations, grants and endowments to the chancellor and CEOs. The CEO is responsible for organizational compliance with state and federal law and system policy at all times. It is expected that the CEO shall ensure the member maintains the highest level of integrity and ethical standards in the solicitation or acceptance of gifts. The CEO may appoint a designee(s) to assist with these duties.

3. GIFT ACCEPTANCE

With the exception of gifts from affiliated organizations, as described in System Regulation *60.01.01, Association with Affiliated Fund Raising Organizations*, which are exempt from the review requirements of this policy, the CEO or designee shall review all gifts in

accordance with this policy and System Regulation *21.05.01, Gifts, Donations, Grants and Endowments*, prior to acceptance. If a gift requires chancellor or designee review and approval, the CEO shall obtain such approval before acceptance of the gift occurs.

The following restrictions apply to gifts to system members and outline requirements for chancellor or designee review and approval prior to acceptance by the CEO:

3.1 Gifts \$1,000,000 or Greater

The chancellor or designee has authority to accept any gift with a fair market value of \$1,000,000 or greater after the review and recommended approval by the Office of Budgets and Accounting and the Office of General Counsel. The chancellor shall establish a process to notify the Office of the Board of Regents of each gift \$1,000,000 or greater.

3.2 Cash Gifts Less than \$1,000,000

3.2.1 The CEO may accept an unrestricted cash gift of less than \$1,000,000.

3.2.2 The CEO may accept a restricted cash gift of less than \$1,000,000 as long as the gift is reviewed by the member development and business offices, fits within the current pattern of accepted gifts for the member, and the gift does not contain a restrictive condition that is discriminatory or which violates any federal or state law, or system policy. If the gift has restrictions, economic risk and/or liability issues that warrant System Offices review, it is the responsibility of the CEO to obtain such review prior to the acceptance of the gift.

3.3 Non-Cash Gifts

3.3.1 The CEO may accept a non-cash gift with a fair market value less than \$250,000 unless the gift involves a partial sale/partial gift transaction.

3.3.2 The CEO may accept a non-cash gift with a fair market value of \$250,000 or greater only after review and approval from the Office of Budgets and Accounting and the Office of General Counsel.

3.3.3 The CEO is responsible for the review of all non-cash gifts for associated economic risks and associated liability for the organization. If the gift has restrictions, economic risk and/or liability issues that warrant System Offices review, it is the responsibility of the CEO to obtain such review prior to the acceptance of the gift.

3.4 Gifts of Real Property and Mineral Rights

3.4.1 The CEO may accept any gift of real property or mineral rights only after review and approval from the Office of Budgets and Accounting and the Office of General Counsel.

3.4.2 Gifts of real property and mineral rights shall be reviewed in accordance with System Policy *41.01, Real Property*.

3.5 Gifts of Closely-Held Securities and Interests in Entities

The CEO may accept a gift of closely-held securities or a gift of an interest in an entity only after review and approval from the Office of Budgets and Accounting and the Office of General Counsel. Gifts of securities that are publicly traded on a securities exchange and for which there are public price quotations are excluded from this section's requirement.

3.6 Gifts of Intellectual Property

The CEO may accept a gift of intellectual property only after review and approval from the Office of Budgets and Accounting, Office of Technology Commercialization and Office of General Counsel.

4. VALUATION OF GIFTS

The system and its members do not have the authority to and shall not provide appraisals or valuations to donors for any type of gift at any time. If the fair market value of a gift is in question, the chief financial officer and treasurer will determine an appropriate process to establish a fair market value for the gift.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

The chancellor or designee is responsible for the implementation of this policy and shall adopt a detailed system regulation in support of this policy.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

[Texas Education Code § 85.21\(b\)](#)

[System Policy *41.01, Real Property*](#)

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

[System Regulation *25.07.02, Reporting of Foreign Contracts, Gifts, Donations, Grants and Endowments*](#)

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

[System Regulation *60.01.01, Association with Affiliated Fund Raising Organizations*](#)

Definitions

Cash gift – a gift of cash, coins, currency, checks and other negotiable instruments that are easily convertible to cash.

Closely-held securities – instruments of ownership in a corporation that are not publicly traded on a securities exchange and for which there are no public price quotations.

Fair market value – intended to be a representation of the real, best appraised value of the property for which it might sell in an arm's length transaction at the time of the gift transaction.

Gift – financial support or property given voluntarily by a third party with nothing received in exchange. For purposes of this policy, the term “gift” shall include gifts, donations, grants and endowments unless the context indicates otherwise.

Intellectual property – a class of property that includes creations of the mind, including ideas, discoveries, inventions, processes, mask works, trade secrets, trademarks, service marks, copyrights, patents, symbols and any related applications, rights or registrations.

Mineral rights – a class of property that includes the rights to oil, gas or other minerals as defined by Texas law, whether joined or severed from the land.

Non-cash gift – a gift of a non-monetary item of property such as art, collectibles, books, equipment, vehicles, inventory, livestock or other physical assets or materials.

Personal property – a class of property that includes movable, tangible or intangible property that is not real property.

Real property – a class of property that includes land and anything attached to it or permanently affixed to it. For purposes of this policy, the term does not include mineral rights.

Restricted gift – for purposes of this policy, a gift that includes any condition or limitation that restricts the use of the gift or involves an income or remainder interest in a trust. A donor's specification that a gift be used for the general support of scholarships, academic excellence, equipment, library resources or academic programs is not considered a restriction or condition for the purposes of this policy.

Contact Office

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