

Clemson University Research Policies Manual

Office of Sponsored Programs

Policy for Research Investment

Approved: February 16, 2004

Effective: Fiscal Year 2004

Section: Research Investment

Statement

Research plays an integral role in the education of graduate students and undergraduate students and therefore must be integrated with the educational and public service missions of Clemson University. In order for the University to grow research, a policy for research investment must be established and accountability assigned.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish research investment funds and to delegate **accountability** for managing these funds.

Discussion

Appropriate E&G and PSA incentive funds should be invested in the research mission without research activities adversely impacting student fees and other limited resources. In this context, a revised Policy for Research Investment (previously known as Research Funding Model) has been adopted.

The University provides basic services in support of research. These include facilities, general administration, and departmental administration. The current research incentive distribution model follows the general proportionate costs of overhead as calculated for the Facilities and Administrative Rate (F&A rate). That is 60% is due to facility and general administration and 40% to administration at the College and Department levels. (Note: This assumes full recovery of the negotiated F&A rates.) While there are exceptions, this model reflects how costs are incurred by the institution's budget in support of the research infrastructure

The Model recognized the institutional support for research by using as a base the actual 60% amount collected in fiscal year 1995-96 and adjusted in fiscal year 2003-2004. This adjusted base amount is \$2,580,000. Collected funds in excess of this amount will establish the research investment fund. In light of the educational component of university research, these funds are not nor should they be, sufficient to cover the entire institutional E&G investment in research.

For PSA funded research, 20% of the PSA collected indirect costs from research conducted in on-campus facilities was returned to the Central Budget. For the first fiscal year (2000-2001), the PSA collected indirect costs returned to the Central Budget was \$141,418.

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Policy

The Vice President for Research will be accountable for the E&G research investment fund and the Vice President for Public Service & Agriculture will be accountable for the PSA research investment fund. The research investment funds are established based on the value of collected indirect costs, 40% of the research investment fund is returned to the appropriate college, department, or faculty member and the remaining 60% is distributed as dictated by this policy. The Vice President for Research (VPR) will be provided with the funds in excess of the \$2.58 million for E&G related research, and the Vice President for Public Service & Agriculture (VPPS&A) with funds in excess of \$141,418 for PSA related research to establish a research investment fund.

The Vice President for Research, in regular consultation with the other two mission vice presidents, will establish E&G research priorities, understand the impact of proposals on the infrastructure, and make decisions on cost-sharing and waiving of F&A rates. Accountability for these actions will be in linking incentives to management of the proposal process.

The Vice President for Public Service and Agriculture, in regular consultation with the other two mission vice presidents, will establish PSA related research priorities, understand the impact of proposals on the infrastructure, and make decisions on cost-sharing and recommendations regarding waiving of F&A rates. Accountability for these actions will be in linking incentives to management of the proposal process.

The University Research Investment Committee, consisting of the Vice President for Research, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Vice President for Public Service and Agriculture, will determine by consensus any increases in the \$2.72 million for institutional infrastructure support. If research activities require additional institutional infrastructure support above the current base year level (2003-2004), a written request with justification will be submitted to the University Research Investment Committee for approval. In its deliberations and decisions, the Committee will take into consideration the overlapping nature of education, research, and public service.

No reallocation of funds can be made without the approval of the University Research Investment Committee. Before reallocations can be made, any existing recurring investments, cost-sharing commitments and non-recurring investments in research infrastructure will have to be taken into consideration. The **Policy for Research Investment** provides accountability for these actions by linking incentives to management of the proposal process.

Overall, the goal of the University is to grow research and increase the effective recovery of overhead.