

### Assignment of Principal Investigator/Project Director

**Approved:** February 12, 2013

**Effective:** February 12, 2013

#### Statement

The duties that are delegated through the assignment of an individual as the “Principal Investigator” or “Project Director” require that the individual placed within that role has appropriate, formal and legal institutional authority to supervise, direct or otherwise control all decisions necessary for successful project performance.

Therefore, the University has designated the following categories of personnel as eligible to serve as Principal Investigator (or Project Director) on a sponsored project:

- All full-time regular faculty, regardless of academic rank;
- Visiting faculty/scientists during the time they are employed by the University;
- Full-time staff including research faculty and post-doctoral scholars;
- Other University employees as designated by the approval of the Vice President for Research using the variance form (Request to Serve as Principal Investigator/Project Director)

#### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance toward certain commonly titled categories of individuals within the University that are determined to be ineligible, and in one case, “conditional” for the assignment of the Principal Investigator (or Project Director) role. In the final, or fourth category, the assignment, while not deemed unacceptable, entails certain increased risks for the performing department and University so that appropriate administrative conditions may be required for University acceptance.

#### Discussion

Within each category below is a brief discussion describing the particular issue(s) of concern.

#### Policy

1. Adjunct or Emeritus Faculty, and other individuals not employed by the University – In recognition of its oversight role of the University’s project performance, personnel supervision, legal responsibilities and various internal and federal compliance requirements associated with sponsored program accounts, an individual, regardless of holding title of “Adjunct” or “Emeritus,” or any other person not formally employed by the University, is ineligible to assume the position of Principal Investigator. A suitable level of institutional oversight toward responsible and accountable project conduct must be legally sustainable within the University’s policies and procedures; therefore, employment status serves as an important determinant for

