

SUBJECT: GENERAL RESEARCH

1. Purpose

This policy is intended to govern research and research related activities.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all research and research-related activities conducted under the aegis of the University of Northern British Columbia.

3. Authority

All research activity is subject to relevant federal, provincial and other statutes, including those which govern protection of privacy, freedom of information, harassment, bias and others. In addition the University receives significant research funding from federal agencies (the three granting councils, Canada Foundation for Innovation, Canada Research Chairs, among others) which render it subject to formal agreements regarding the conduct and administration of research activities. These formal arrangements are known collectively as the Tri-Council Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) and can be found at the websites of the federal granting agencies. The University of Northern British Columbia supports and adheres to the Tri-Council MOUs as a condition of continuing eligibility for receiving funds from those agencies. These formal arrangements to which the University is subject help shape and guide this policy.

This policy and associated regulations are administered by the Vice President Research.

4. Context

The University supports research in all areas of inquiry. It especially encourages research activity relating to the peoples, resources, and issues of central and northern British Columbia in the expectation that such activity will produce results that will be applicable beyond the boundaries of the mandate region of the University.

The University provides incentives and support in the form of travel grants to present research results at conferences, seed grants to enable early steps in new research directions, publication grants to facilitate the improvement in quality or quantity of scholarly works, reduced workloads for a select subset of especially deserving researchers, facilitation of research grant writing, liaison with major granting agencies, and other activities. The University also supports the mobilization of research results into useful policy, services, products and awareness in society.

The research activities of faculty members and students engage a great many of the organizational units of the university and support for research is provided, either directly or indirectly, by most departments and programs.

5. Research Grants and Contracts

5.1 General

Grant and contract funds are entrusted to the University for specific purposes and are not the property of any individual.

5.2 Responsibilities of the Principal Investigator

It is the principal investigator's responsibility to ensure that all expenditures authorized against University accounts conform with the approved budget, with all terms and conditions of the grant or contract, with all regulations of the sponsoring agency, and with all applicable policies and regulations of the University.

5.3 Responsibilities of the Vice President Research

Establishment of research accounts requires the approval of the Vice President Research.

The Vice President Research is responsible for approval of all non-disclosure, material transfer, and similar agreements that formally bind the University with respect to research-related activities.

The Vice President Research is responsible for authorizing submission of applications for research funding and authorizing, where appropriate, major purchases and sub-contracts, including employment contracts, entered into with research funds.

5.4 Contracting Authority

The University alone has the legal capacity to enter into contracts which bind the University. Contracts for research and other projects must be between the University and the contracting agency and may not be written in the name of an individual department, school or employee. The Vice President Research holds delegated authority from the Board of Governors, within limits, to execute contracts on behalf of the University.

5.5 Supplemental Income to Investigators

Any remuneration to an investigator permitted under a contract administered by the University must be explicitly stated in the contract, and must be within the limits established by University policy or University agreements with employee groups. Investigators may receive supplemental income only from contracts for which the University receives appropriate overhead allowances (see Overhead Policy for further details).

5.6 Equipment

Title to equipment and material purchased with the aid of research grants is vested in the University unless otherwise specified in the terms of the contract or grant.

Where University equipment, facilities, or other resources are used for commercial purposes the rental or usage fees must include an allowance for University overhead (see Overhead Policy).

It is expected that equipment which is not being fully used for the purpose for which it was primarily intended will be made available for use by others through appropriate agreement, including sharing of maintenance, repair and other costs.—

6. Dissemination of Research

6.1 Publication

The University will not restrict publication of research and scholarly outcomes except insofar as formal agreements have been entered into with third parties, which formally accord those third parties rights in dissemination. Such arrangements are normally limited to projects involving particular and vulnerable population groups. The University will only enter into such arrangements with the prior full agreement of the Principal Investigator.

6.2 Delay in Publication

A sponsor may be given the right, under terms of a formal contract, to request delay in publication of research results or to review such publication in advance. In any case: (i) members of the University shall

be free to publish after a period stated in the agreement, and normally not longer than 12 months from termination of the project or submission of the final report, whichever is later; (ii) no restriction shall prohibit or delay the use of research results by students for theses or other academic requirements of their programs. In order to expedite graduate student program completion, thesis defenses may be held *in camera* and the shelving of theses may be delayed by prior agreement.

Delays in publication are normally permissible only in circumstances where the public interest is best served by such delay, or where patent or similar intellectual property protection is being sought (see Intellectual Property Policy).