

March 3, 2020

Dean Antonio Bernardo
Dean Gary Segura
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Subject: Submitting Research Proposals through the National Bureau of Economic Research

Colleagues:

A number of UCLA economists have been appointed as NBER "affiliates," a prestigious appointment that gives them access to databases and other resources that would otherwise be unavailable to them. UCLA has established an expedited process for review of proposals to conduct research through the National Bureau of Economic Research, a non-profit research organization dedicated to conducting economics research and to disseminating research findings among academics, public policy makers, and business professionals:

1. UCLA has put in place an agreement with NBER so that research involving human subjects does not need to be reviewed by both institutions. Under this reliance agreement, the NBER IRB will serve as the IRB of record for these proposals.
2. UCLA faculty who are NBER affiliates can request an expedited exception to the UC Policy on the "Requirement to Submit Proposals and to Receive Awards for Grants and Contracts through the University" to submit a proposal for research support through NBER. The applicant must complete a request form (see attached). The applicant is assured of approval if the answers to the six questions asked are all positive, subject to the understandings outlined on page 2, and with the endorsement of the appropriate chair(s) and dean(s). (In the case of split appointments, both chairs and/or both deans should sign the form.)
3. Completed request forms should be sent to RPC@research.ucla.edu along with a copy of the proposal. The proposal does not have to be final; a draft version may be submitted as long as it provides sufficient information to permit a review.

4. The research conducted under NBER's auspices is considered a Category I (outside research) and/or Category II (consulting) outside professional activity, under Academic Personnel Policy 025. As such, the activity and effort must be reported and certified annually.
5. While the streamlined process eliminates the need for the Principal Investigator to separately request prior approval through the submission of a Category I prior approval form, requests that do not fit within the parameters of this streamlined approach should be handled in the normal fashion by submitting a request for prior approval under APM 025.

Please distribute this memo to those faculty within your respective areas who are NBER affiliates. I would appreciate it if you also make it available to staff who work with faculty in preparing research proposals so that they too are aware of this process.

These procedures were implemented following requests by NBER associates, following a series of conversations with a number of campus economists; Ann Pollack, Associate Vice Chancellor – Research; Michael Levine, Vice Chancellor – Academic Personnel; Robin Garrell, Dean of the Graduate Division; Marcia Smith, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research Administration; and Kristin Craun, Director, UCLA Office for Human Research Protection Programs.

Please contact Ann Pollack, Associate Vice Chancellor–Research, at extension 4-0387 or apollack@research.ucla.edu if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Roger Wakimoto
Vice Chancellor for Research

Attachment: Streamlined Request Form

Cc: Vice Chancellor Michael Levine
Dean and Vice Provost Robin Garrell
Associate Vice Chancellor Marcia Smith
Director Kristin Craun
Professor Dora Costa
Professor Manisha Shah
Professor Chair Til Von Wachter
Professor Adrianna Lleros-Muney
Professor J.R. de Shazo