

Deans, Directors, Department Chairs and Administrative Officers

Funding from the tobacco industry has long been a source of controversy. While some members of the University community feel that individual researchers' rights to seek support from the tobacco industry should not be limited or curtailed, others have raised serious concerns about acceptance of those funds. After debate over a period of time, The Regents adopted a new policy last fall that allows individual researchers to apply for research support from the tobacco industry, but only after peer review by the campus, and with the Chancellor's explicit approval.

The Regental Resolution (RE-89) requires each UC campus to establish a process for ensuring that any proposal submitted to a company whose primary business is the manufacture and sale of tobacco products, or any agency that is substantially controlled or acting on behalf of a tobacco company, must first undergo scientific peer review. RE-89 establishes guidelines for establishment of the review committees, outlines the way in which the review is to be conducted, and requires that the Committee outline its recommendations in a written report to the Chancellor. Further, RE-89 also requires that the Chancellor provide the researcher, the UC President, and The Regents with a written determination approving or disapproving the request to submit the proposal. No proposal may be submitted to a tobacco company absent this review and written approval.

Accordingly, at UCLA, no request for research support can be submitted to a tobacco company unless the Principal Investigator has received a project-specific written determination of approval from the Chancellor. Given the time it may take to conduct the required review and make appropriate determinations, it is important that anyone who is contemplating submission of a research proposal to a tobacco company should contact me immediately, so that I can work with the Chancellor to ensure that the review process is conducted on a timely basis.

Additionally, I ask that each of you carefully consider the advantages and disadvantages of accepting research support from the tobacco industry. I also remind you that in conducting such research – as with all research, it is important that neither the design, conduct, or reporting of such research be directed or controlled by the sponsor the project.

The text of the Regental Resolution as adopted is available at:

http://www.ucop.edu/research/policies/documents/review_approval_re89.pdf.

Please contact Ann Pollack, Assistant Vice Chancellor - Research at x40387 or apollack@resadmin.ucla.edu if you have any immediate questions about the Regental

policy, or need assistance in determining whether a specific company is, or is not considered to be part of the “tobacco industry” for the purpose of the Regental policy.

Sincerely,

Roberto Peccei

Vice Chancellor for Research