

UCLA

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research
Office of the Vice Chancellor for External Affairs

TO: Deans, Directors, Department Chairs and Administrative Officers

In the spring of 2004, the campus Committee on Research Investment chaired by Provost Gerald Levey issued a report outlining a roadmap for the UCLA infrastructure to more effectively support the campus research enterprise. Eighteen recommendations were made. While a committee chaired by Vice Chancellor Steve Olsen is examining the feasibility of implementing most of the recommendations, a separate small group was convened to focus on the one that dealt with distinguishing between gifts (irrevocable donations to support UCLA programs or research), and grants (support for specific research projects). That group suggested the following:

- Existing University policy and guidelines already provide clear guidance about distinguishing between gifts and grants, but do not deal well with support that does not fall neatly into one of these categories. Therefore, the group recommended creation of additional guidelines for handling support that falls into this "gray" area.
- The group recommended that UCLA policy be revised to indicate that in general, all requests for support for specific research studies (e.g. testing a stated hypothesis, solving a specific problem, challenging an existing paradigm, addressing a critical barrier to progress in the field, developing a new technology) regardless of whether there are other restrictions on the use of these funds, be accepted and administered as grants, rather than gifts. Thus, in seeking support for these kinds of projects, investigators need to propose budgets that include appropriate direct and indirect costs. Proposals for support that outline specific research studies should be submitted to sponsors through the Office of Contract and Grant Administration (OCGA). In contrast, requests for unrestricted support for an investigator's general field of research (e.g. pediatric research, diabetes research, the poetry of John Donne, economic forecasting or to underwrite laboratory costs, etc.) will typically be categorized as gifts.
- UCLA Policy 921 "Accepting Support for Research from Private Organizations" has been updated to reflect this suggested clarification. The policy can also be found at:
http://www.adminvc.ucla.edu/appm/entry_900.html.

Please alert faculty and administrators within your respective organizations about this change in the way that certain awards for specific research support will be classified. Additionally, we need your help in reminding faculty and administrative staff of the importance of incorporating indirect costs into their requests for specific research funding as these monies support much of the campus research infrastructure.

Should you or the faculty and staff within your respective units have questions, ORA, Gift Services, and Development staff are available to confer about making these determinations at all stages of research proposal development and/or grant or gift acceptance.

Sincerely,

Roberto Peccei
Vice Chancellor
Research

Michael C. Eicher
Vice Chancellor
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