

# UNIVERSITY RULE

## 15.01.01.M3 University Councils, Committees, and Boards Governing Research

*Approved December 18, 2000*

*Revised January 18, 2013*

*Next Scheduled Review: January 18, 2018*

---

### Rule Statement

---

Texas A&M University shall provide for the appointment of councils, committees, and governing boards for research. Research-related councils and committees will be made up primarily of faculty members, with student and staff members included when appropriate.

---

### Official Rule / Responsibilities / Process

---

#### 1. UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COUNCIL (URC)

1.1 The University Research Council (URC) provides advice and assistance to the Vice President for Research on research activities, research planning, and research policy. The URC shall be chaired by the Vice President for Research. Members include the associate deans for research for each college, the Associate Provost, Graduate Studies, the Associate Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies at Galveston, other individuals appointed by the Vice President for Research representing the Library, the Faculty Senate Research Committee, the Council of Principal Investigators, and may also include faculty members from each college who have broad experience in research or research management.

1.2 The URC is an advisory body that reports to the Vice President for Research, and makes recommendations in support of the research mission of the University, on the manner by which research is initiated and conducted.

#### 2. COUNCIL OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS (CPI)

2.1 The CPI serves as a liaison with the University, and agency research administrations. The CPI focuses particularly on the support, promotion and conduct of research activities.

2.2 The CPI represents the interests of faculty and other employees actively engaged in competitively funded research. The CPI may represent a different constituency

than the Faculty Senate and has no formal relationship to that body. The Chair of the CPI, or designee shall be a member of the University Research Council.

### 3. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES FOR RESEARCH COMPLIANCE

The purpose of each of the administrative committees is to ensure University compliance with federal regulations governing research activities. In addition, ad hoc committees may be established to provide advice, assistance, and recommendations relating to specific incidents, including but not limited to scientific misconduct and conflict of interest. Except as otherwise permitted by law or federal regulations, decisions of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, Institutional Review Board and Institutional Biosafety Committee are final.

#### 3.1 Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

3.1.1 Each project involving the use of animals in research, teaching or testing that requires an Animal Use Protocol (AUP) must be approved by the IACUC prior to the initiation of any work, and before any animals may be acquired, housed, or used for research, testing or teaching. (See [University Rule 15.99.07.M1, Use of Vertebrate Animals in Research, Teaching and Testing](#) for more information).

3.1.2 The IACUC chair and members are appointed by the Vice President for Research.

#### 3.2 Institutional Review Board (IRB)

3.2.1 All research activities performed under the auspices of Texas A&M University, including cooperative research conducted with one or more public or private entity or entities in which human subjects are involved, must be reviewed and approved by the IRB.

3.2.2 The IRB is the administrative body appointed in accordance with [45 C.F.R. §46.107](#) and [University Rule 15.99.01.M1 Human Subjects in Research](#) to protect the welfare of human subjects in research activities conducted under the auspices of Texas A&M University.

3.2.3 The IRB chair and members are appointed by the Vice President for Research.

#### 3.3 Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)

3.3.1 All activities, including research, teaching and testing, done under the auspices of Texas A&M University, including cooperative research conducted with one or more public or private entities, in which biohazards

and/or recombinant DNA are involved must be reviewed and approved by the IBC before initiation of activity.

3.3.2 The IBC chair and members are appointed by the Vice President for Research.

3.4 Scientific Misconduct Committees (ad hoc)

3.4.1 A Scientific Misconduct Committee is an ad hoc committee charged with inquiring and/or investigating allegations of scientific misconduct.

3.4.2 Federal regulations and System and University regulations, rules and related procedures guide ad hoc committee inquiries and investigations. (Refer to [System Regulation 15.99.03 Ethics in Research, Scholarship and Creative Work](#) and [University Rule 15.99.03.M1 Responsible Conduct in Research and Scholarship](#).)

3.4.3 The committee chair and ad hoc committee members are appointed by the Vice President for Research, or designee, and report through the Vice President for Research, or designee, to the Provost and Executive Vice President, and to the President.

3.5 Conflict of Interest Review Committee (CIRC) (ad hoc)

3.5.1 A CIRC is an ad hoc committee which addresses issues regarding conflicts of interest in relation to research and/or educational projects.

3.5.2 Federal regulations and guidelines, System regulations and University rules define the ad hoc committee's responsibilities. (Refer to [System Regulation 15.01.03, Financial Conflicts of Interest in Sponsored Research](#) and [University Rule 15.01.03.M1 Financial Conflicts of Interest in Sponsored Research](#).)

3.5.3 The committee chair and members are appointed by the Vice President for Research.

4. OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES ON RESEARCH

Other administrative committees on research making recommendations to the Vice President for Research include:

4.1 The Radiological Safety Committee (RSC)

4.1.1 The RSC functions as an advisory board to the Environmental Health and Safety Department.

- 4.1.2 The RSC lends expertise to the development of procedures, policies and guidelines for the safe receipt, possession and use of radioactive material and radiation producing devices licensed to the University by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Texas Department of State Health Services.
  - 4.1.3 This committee is the authority for approval of special operations and permit issuance, and is responsible for evaluating the Radiation Safety Program.
  - 4.1.4 The RSC is appointed by and reports to the Vice President for Administration.
- 4.2 Diving Control Board (DCB)
- 4.2.1 The DCB advises and assists the Office of Safety and Security in directing the Scientific Diving Program. The Board meets as needed to certify divers, approve dive plan requests, review reports on the diving activity, and to consider any rules or guidelines which are designed to maintain safety.
  - 4.2.2 This DCB is appointed by and reports to the Vice President for Administration.
- 4.3 The Reactor Safety Board (RSB)
- 4.3.1 The RSB provides safety oversight for University System reactors. The Board reviews and approves reactor standard operating procedures and experiments, and performs periodic audits on the records of reactor operations.
  - 4.3.2 The RSB is appointed by and reports to the Deputy Director of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station.

---

**Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements**

---

[\*Supplements System Policy 15.01 and System Regulation 15.01.01\*](#)

[\*University Rule 15.99.07.M1, Use of Vertebrate Animals in Research, Teaching and Testing\*](#)

[\*45 C.F.R. 46.107\*](#)

[University Rule 15.99.01.M1 \*Human Subjects in Research\*](#)

[System Regulation 15.99.03 \*Ethics in Research, Scholarship and Creative Work\*](#)

[University Rule 15.99.03.M1 \*Responsible Conduct in Research and Scholarship\*](#)

[System Regulation 15.01.03 \*Financial Conflicts of Interest in Sponsored Research\*](#)

[University Rule 15.01.03.M1 \*Financial Conflicts of Interest in Sponsored Research\*](#)

---

**Contact Office**

---

Division of Research  
(979) 845-8585