

UNIVERSITY RULE

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

Approved December 18, 2000

Next Scheduled Review: Currently Under Review

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

1. GENERAL

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

1.1 Academic Program Council (APC)

1.1.1 The Academic Program Council (APC) is a standing University-wide committee. This council, chaired by the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academics, shall be composed of college deans (including the deans of the Sterling Evans Library and the Bush School of Government), associate and assistant provosts, the Speaker of the Faculty Senate, the Student Government Body President, the CEO for Texas A&M University at Galveston, the Vice President for Research, and the Graduate Student Council President. The APC serves as the major policy-setting group for academic programs, inclusive of all scholarly and research activities, and serves as the executive committee for academic affairs. The APC proposes administrative policies and procedures for University colleges (including the Library).

1.1.2 The APC endorses and supports a Council of Deans. The Council of Deans, a standing University committee consisting primarily of the college deans, provides advice and assistance on strategic planning and interdisciplinary programs to the APC.

2. UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COUNCIL (URC)

2.1 The University Research Council (URC) provides advice and assistance to the Vice President for Research on development, research planning, and policy. The URC shall be chaired by the Vice President for Research. Members include the associate deans for research for each college, the Dean of Bush School, the Dean of Graduate Studies, the Associate Dean for Research 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 faculty members from each college who have broad experience in research or research management.

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

3. COUNCIL OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS (CPI)

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

3.2 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 shall be a member of the University Research Council.

4. UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (URIOC)

4.1 The URIOC provides advice and assistance to the Vice President for Research. The committee chair and members are appointed by the Vice President for Research to represent those colleges in which research infrastructure is fundamental to their mission.

4.2 The URIOC functions in the essential role of assessing need for and support of current and future core laboratories, as well as capital investments in equipment and facilities, which are fundamental to the research and education missions of Texas A&M University.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES FOR RESEARCH COMPLIANCE

Administrative committees referenced in this section provide advice and assistance and report to the Vice President for Research.

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. With the exception of scientific

misconduct, the decision of the research compliance committee referenced in this section is final.

5.1. University Laboratory Animal Care Committee (ULACC)

5.1.1 This committee oversees the care and use of laboratory animals at Texas A&M University (including Texas A&M University at Galveston), and animal care activities that are regulated by federal law and by University rules. The committee chair and members are appointed by the Vice President for Research.

5.1.2 The ULACC review responsible for the and approval of any undertaking in which students, faculty, or staff perform research, training, or biological testing activities involving live vertebrate animals, or when off-campus individuals want to use campus facilities for laboratory animal research, training or biological activities. (See [University Rule 15.99.99.M3: Laboratory Animals in Research and Teaching](#) for more information).

5.2. Institutional Review Board (IRB)

5.2.1 The IRB reviews all research involving human subjects. The approval of the IRB must be obtained prior to the initiation of any research involving human subjects.

5.2.2 The IRB operates under specific federal provisions and requirements. (Refer to [University Rule 15.99.01.M1: Human Subjects in Research](#) for more information.)

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

5.3. Institutional Bio-safety Committee (IBC)

5.3.1 The IBC is responsible for the review and approval of protocols involving research using recombinant DNA molecules (hybrid DNA molecules formed from native or synthetic fragments that are introduced into living cells, including transgenic plants or animals). The IBC may also provide advice on research involving infectious agents. The IBC will be guided by the National Institutes of Health guidelines and other federal requirements.

- 5.3.2 The committee chair and members are appointed by the Vice President for Research.
- 5.4. Committee on Infectious Biohazards (CIB)
- 5.4.1 The CIB is responsible for the review and approval of all protocols involving bio-hazardous agents and toxins in teaching or research. This committee follows federal guidelines for the proper control of bio-hazardous agents and toxins. Each researcher or instructor who proposes to use bio-hazardous agents or toxins must submit a protocol for committee review.
- 5.4.2 This committee follows federal guidelines for the proper control of infectious agents. Each researcher or instructor who proposes to use bio-hazardous agents or toxins must submit a protocol for committee review.
- 5.4.3 The committee chair and members are appointed by the Vice President for Research.
- 5.5. Scientific Misconduct Committees (ad hoc)
- 5.5.1 A Scientific Misconduct Committee is an ad hoc committee charged with inquiring and investigating allegations by scientific misconduct.
- 5.5.2 University and federal regulations guide ad hoc committee inquiries and investigations. (Refer to [University Rule 15.99.03.M1: Responsible Conduct in Research and Scholarship.](#))
- 5.5.3 The committee chair and ad hoc committee members are appointed by and report through the Vice President for Research, and through the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academics, to the President.
- 5.6. University Conflict of Interest Review Committee (UCIRC) (ad hoc)
- 5.6.1 A UCIRC is an ad hoc committee which addresses issues regarding conflicts of interest in relation to research and/or educational projects.
- 5.6.2 University and federal guidelines define the ad hoc committee's responsibilities. (Refer to [System Regulation 15.01.03: Conflict of Interest in the Design, Conduct and Reporting of Sponsored Research and Educational Activities.](#))

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

6. OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES ON RESEARCH

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

6.1. The Radiological Safety Committee (RSC)

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

6.1.2 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 Bureau of Radiation Control.

6.1.3 This committee is the authority for approval of special operations and permit issuance, and is responsible for evaluating the Radiation Safety Program.

6.1.4 The RSC is appointed by and reports to the Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer.

6.2. University Diving Control Board (UDCB)

6.2.1 The UDCB advises and assists the Environmental Health and Safety Department 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 without introducing unnecessary restrictions on the scientists.

6.2.2 This UDCB is appointed by and reports to the Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer.

6.3. The Reactor Safety Board (RSB)

6.3.1 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.

6.3.2 The RSB is appointed by and reports to the Deputy Director of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station.

OFFICE OF RESPONSIBILITY: [Office of the Vice President for Research](#)