



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

APPENDIX "A" TO
REPORT NUMBER 147 OF THE
ACADEMIC BOARD
January 11, 2007

REVISED

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

SPONSOR: John Challis, Vice President, Research and Associate Provost

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DATE: December 4th, 2006

AGENDA ITEM: 4(b)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

University of Toronto Statement on Research Partnerships

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs reviews research policies on behalf of the Academic Board. The Academic Board is required by its terms of reference to consider research policies and forward recommendations to the Governing Council.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN: None

HIGHLIGHTS:

Research at the University of Toronto is driven by the pursuit of knowledge and academic inquiry. The University has a strong tradition of partnering in research with other academic institutions, the professions, and the public and private sector, with transparency and public accountability.

In January 2006, the VP, Research and Associate Provost appointed a committee to review the University's policies relating to research matters. The committee recommended that the University affirm its commitment to fostering research partnerships within a framework defined by the University's academic mission and its fundamental values. The *Statement on Research Partnerships* (the "Research Partnerships Statement") was developed in response to this recommendation. The Statement summarizes the University's rigorous and thorough review processes for research funding applications and research agreements to ensure their compliance with applicable policies and procedures. It confirms that there is no policy within the University which limits research funding to certain sources.

The Research Partnerships Statement is also responsive to the growing interest of the Tri-Councils (Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada) to engage institutions in the development of policies to address institutional conflicts of interest. The Tri-Councils have expressed concern that growing commercial sponsorship of research and the encouragement of commercialization of research outcomes may give rise to concerns about possible institutional conflicts of interest in the governance and conduct of research. A companion *Statement on Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Commitment* is proceeding through governance.

The Research Partnerships Statement affirms the University's current policies and procedures. It does not amend existing University policies and guidelines. An illustrative list of applicable policies and guidelines is provided as an appendix to the Research Partnerships Statement, which was presented to RAB on Sept. 12th and to P3G on Sept. 25th.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS: None

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the University of Toronto Statement on Research Partnerships be approved.

Statement on Research Partnerships

Research at the University of Toronto is driven by the pursuit of knowledge and academic inquiry. The University is deeply committed both to its public role as a leader in the discovery, preservation and sharing of knowledge, and to the highest standard of integrity in research.

The University has a strong tradition of partnering with other universities, the professions, the public and private sector, with transparency and public accountability.

The following statement reflects the principles that shape our research partnerships and confirms the continuing commitment of the University to foster those partnerships, within a framework defined by the University's academic mission and its fundamental values.

- 1 The purpose of the University is set out in the University's *Statement of Institutional Purpose*. At the heart of the University lies the commitment to academic freedom, which may not be abridged. Academic freedom is described in the University's *Statement on Freedom of Speech* and in article 5 of the Memorandum of Agreement between the University of Toronto and the University of Toronto Faculty Association.
- 2 Academic freedom includes the freedom to pursue research and scholarship and to publish or otherwise make public the results thereof free from institutional censorship. The University values and will protect its integrity, autonomy and freedom to pursue lines of inquiry within legal boundaries, and enters into research partnerships guided by these fundamental principles. The University has established various policies that govern aspects of research partnerships.
- 3 A number of these policies apply to individual members of the University community. University researchers are subject to the University's *Policy on Ethical Conduct in Research*, which articulates their responsibility to adhere to the highest standards of ethical conduct in every aspect of research including applications, proposals, the research itself, reports and publications. University policies and procedures address and manage both actual and perceived conflicts of interest.
- 4 Research funding applications and research-related agreements are subject to review by departmental and divisional heads and the office of the Vice President – Research and Associate Provost before approval to ensure compliance with all relevant policies, procedures, ethical requirements, and legislation, including those with respect to the use of human subjects, animals and biohazardous materials in research.
- 5 The results of University research are freely publishable in accordance with the University's *Publication Policy*. To encourage the translation of knowledge into socially useful applications, the *Publication Policy* permits limited publication delays to the extent necessary to obtain protection of proprietary rights in research results.
- 6 The University's research partnerships are matters of public record, except for information which is personal or proprietary, in accordance with applicable legislation.
- 7 In view of the importance it attaches to academic freedom, no policy or practice within the University limits research partnerships conducted within legal limits. If a research proposal passes the required reviews, the University does not and will not limit approved research based on its potential or actual applications.

Statement on Research Partnerships – Appendix: Relevant Policies and Statements

The following University of Toronto policies and guidelines are relevant to this statement and may be obtained from the Office of the Governing Council, Simcoe Hall, University of Toronto.

Academic Freedom

- The University of Toronto Statement of Institutional Purpose
- The University of Toronto Statement on Freedom of Speech
- Memorandum of Agreement between the University of Toronto and the University of Toronto Faculty Association
- Publication Policy

Access to Information

- Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Conflict of Interest

- Policy on Conflict of Interest – Academic Staff
- Policy on Conflict of Interest – Librarians

Institutional Review

- Policy on Approval and Execution of Contracts and Documents
- Policy on Research Contracts and the Recovery of Indirect Costs of Research

Research Ethics

- Policy on Ethical Conduct in Research
- Policy on Research Involving Human Subjects