

SPONSORED RESEARCH

Sponsored research activities are central to the purposes of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and of Dartmouth College as a whole. Dartmouth's Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP) provides guidance and management during all phases of sponsored research activity. The OSP has a comprehensive website located at: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~osp/>. Faculty should pay particular attention to sections on Sponsored Research Administration (<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~osp/sponsored.html>), Dartmouth Policies (<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~osp/policies.html>) and the Sponsored Research Manual (<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~osp/manual.html>). Information on procedures for submission of proposals, post-award activities, policies and procedures for safeguarding integrity in research, training and other related activities, scientific misconduct policy, conflict of interest policy, policies regarding research involving human subjects or animals, data retention policies, information on the title to capital equipment acquired under sponsored projects, and patent policy can all be found through the OSP. Dartmouth's copyright policy can be found at: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/copyright/>.

Criteria for Acceptance

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences has endorsed a statement prepared in 1969 by the Council on Sponsored Activities (COSA) governing the acceptance of sponsored research and other projects supported by grants, contracts, or gifts from government or private sources outside the College. Excerpts of pertinent parts are set forth below. The wording of the excerpts has been edited to recognize changes in organizational arrangements and titles that have occurred since the faculty vote.

The acceptability of the research or other sponsored activity will be considered in terms of its relevance to the purposes of Dartmouth College.

Judgment of the merit, soundness, and promise of a research proposal, as distinguished from its relevance to the purposes of Dartmouth College, should be made by the principal investigator and the sponsoring agency. The College, on the other hand, has the responsibility of judging the merit as well as the relevance of sponsored activities other than research, such as special educational and training programs, summer institutes, and so forth.

Sponsored activities should contribute to, rather than distort, the orderly development and growth of departments and schools. Care must be taken to avoid situations that might divert the resources of the institution from its stated purposes. Separate, detached, and largely autonomous arrangements not related

to these purposes should be avoided.

The terms of the contract, grant, or gift in support of the sponsored activity should assign administrative authority and responsibility for the activity to the principal investigator or project director and the College.

To fulfill its purposes as an educational institution, Dartmouth must ensure that research done at the College is part of the public domain. The content of this research must be disseminated on a non-discriminatory basis. The College cannot, therefore, undertake studies the content of which cannot be freely published (except for ethical restraint upon certain kinds of information).

Dartmouth, nonetheless, recognizes legitimate proprietary concerns of sponsors. Where appropriate, publications can be deferred for a limited period of time to protect patent rights. Similarly, on occasions where the College has accepted a sponsor's proprietary information as necessary background data for a research project, the sponsor may review proposed publications in order to identify any inadvertent disclosure of data. Ordinarily the sponsor should be given no more than 90 days to review such data before publication.

On rare occasions the time for withholding publication may be lengthened. This would require approval of the appropriate dean after consultation with the researcher. It should be emphasized, however, that any extension beyond the 90 days is for a limited period of time, but in no case longer than one year.

The free exchange of ideas is fundamental the life of the College. However, under those exceptional circumstances when the College accepts proprietary data, which are regarded as essential for the conduct of a research program, such data may properly be held in confidence. Any non-disclosure statements signed by Faculty or students will indicate that where the College does accept data as proprietary, it agrees to exercise reasonable efforts not to publish or otherwise reveal the data to others. The College will only agree to make a "best effort" commitment to maintain the privacy of the data. If the data have already been published or disclosed publicly by third parties or are required to be disclosed by order of a Court of Law, this requirement is waived. Such reasonable efforts by the College will be in lieu of all other obligations or liabilities of the College relative to proprietary information.

The College retains the right to refuse to accept any data that it does not consider to be essential to the completion of the project or that it believes to be improperly designated or for any other reason. Access to proprietary information shall not be a necessary condition for participation in research by students at the College.

Sponsored Activities must not place the College in a position of taking on work beyond its resources. Thus grants and contracts will be accepted only where the following financial and administrative conditions are met:

1. The budget should be adequate for the proper accomplishment of the proposed activity, including allowances for contingency, possible salary increases, fringe benefits, and indirect institutional expenses. If College funds are required for partial support of the activity, either as direct or indirect expenses, budgetary provision must have been made for such funds.
2. Adequate personnel should be available, or provision should be made for funds to make such personnel available. Where such additional personnel may be required, the limit of existing salary scales and personnel policy must apply.
3. Adequate space, equipment, and other facilities should be made available, or a provision

should be made for funds to make them available. Adequate provision should be made for continuing support or for orderly conclusion of the activity upon termination of the outside support.