Memorandum to Presidents

Date: February 15, 1990
From: Office of the Provost
Subject: Faculty Salary Recovery from Sponsored Programs

To: Presidents, State-operated Campuses

Attached is a statement of policy on Faculty Salary Recovery that has been developed in consultation with a number of University groups, including the Presidents of the University Centers, the SUNY Doctoral Council, and the Sponsored Programs Advisory Council of The Research Foundation. The policy was approved by the Council of Presidents at its December 1989 meeting.

I urge you to disseminate this policy on your campuses, and thank you for your cooperation.

Joseph C. Burke

Attachment

This memorandum addressed to:
  Presidents, State-operated Campuses
This memorandum for information to:
  Presidents, Community Colleges
  Deans, Statutory Colleges
  President Coll
  Provost Nesheim
Faculty Salary Recovery From Sponsored Programs

Preamble:

The State University of New York, as a public university system, has three primary missions: teaching, research, and public service. All campuses fulfill these missions, but the form they take varies with the nature and mission of each campus.

At campuses with responsibility for doctoral programs, the teaching mission takes on a special form because doctoral education is research-based. Faculty time and effort necessary for the education of graduate students are not limited to scheduled classes, but also include the mentoring of students individually on the methodology and practice of research. Since active research by faculty members is the basis for thesis and dissertation projects for graduate students, faculty research programs are essential to the instructional mission at the doctoral level. Thus, there is significant overlap between the instructional mission and the research mission in graduate education, and research becomes a particularly critical factor in the academic responsibilities of faculty members in the University Centers and other doctoral campuses. Therefore, State University expects that faculty members in the University Centers and doctoral campuses will spend a significant portion of their effort on research.

In many fields, the value of university-based research is recognized through funding via Federal agencies such as the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. Non-federal agencies also provide support for research in various disciplines. Such external funding allows State University's research mission to be expanded beyond that which can be supported by the State of New York alone. Thus, research may be carried out as a partnership between the State and Federal governments or between the State and an external sponsor when the interests of State University and the sponsor coincide. Participation in sponsored projects enhances State University's missions of research and public service while also bolstering its teaching mission, particularly at the graduate level.
Policy:

It is the policy of the State University of New York to recover direct costs of sponsored programs to the maximum extent possible, consistent with sponsor policies, the mission of the University and of the campus involved, and the proper conduct of the sponsored programs.

If the professional responsibilities of a faculty member to an academic unit must be reduced to allow more time to be spent in carrying out a sponsored program and the unit incurs additional costs to maintain its programs, it is expected that appropriate portions of salary costs will be recovered.

When the effort of a faculty member in a sponsored program is activity expected as part of that individual's academic responsibilities, such participation does not reflect an increased cost to the University. That portion of a faculty salary representing time devoted to the project may be considered the University's contribution to a project of mutual interest and cost shared. When possible, some portion of the cost of this participation should be recovered from the funding source, since such recovery expands the campus resource base and its ability to support further research. Campuses will need to weigh carefully factors such as the competitiveness of the proposal and the availability of campus resources in making final decisions on apportioning salary recovery on sponsored programs.

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