



## Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University Board of Trustees Policy

<b>Board of Trustees Policy Number:</b> 2005-09	<b>Date of Adoption/Revision:</b> June 30, 2005
--	--

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Principal Investigator Eligibility Policy</b>
<b>Authority</b>	Sections 1004.22 and 1001.74, Florida Statutes

### I. Policy Statement and Purpose

When a Principal Investigator accepts sponsored funding, the person does so on behalf of Florida A & M University (University) under the terms and conditions of the award. Thus, we as an academic community must never take our responsibility for prudent stewardship of sponsored funding for granted.

The status of Principal Investigator (PI) is granted as a matter of privilege to the academic faculty, and therefore certain procedures must be instituted to ensure that a faculty member granted such status understands clearly the University's expectations in the fulfillment of such role.

### II. Definitions

- A. *Principal Investigator* means the individual primarily responsible for and in charge of a sponsored project.
- B. *Administrative and Professional Employees (A&P)* mean those individuals appointed to the University
- C. *Regular Faculty* means a faculty member with a tenure or non-tenure appointment.
- D. *Sponsored Project* means a project funded with grants, contracts and cooperative agreements, including not limited to training, public service, research and cooperative projects.
- E. *Faculty With Limited Appointments* means a faculty member with an appointment as adjunct or visiting.

### III. Eligibility To Be Principal Investigator

#### A. Regular Faculty

Eligibility to act as a PI or co-PI on externally funded projects is a privilege limited to members of regular rank of the faculty. A request for PI status shall be signed by the relevant department chair to the dean, and the Provost and Vice President for Research.

#### B. Adjunct and Visiting Faculty

Adjunct and visiting faculty are eligible to serve as co-PI on research grants and contracts and other sponsored projects upon approval by the Department Chair, Dean,

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Vice President for Research.

#### C. Graduate Students

Graduate students or students with professional training academic appointments are eligible to serve as principal investigators on sponsored projects that the funding agency has specified as programs for which students are eligible. Persons in this category must receive the approval of the department head and dean of the school or college in which the school is registered, the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the Vice President for Research. The student must also have a PI as Faculty Advisor/mentor. NOTE: In some instances, the student will be the key personnel, but a faculty member must be the PI.

#### D. Other Academic and Non-Academic Employees

A & P and Other Non-Academic Employees under certain circumstances, employees holding non-academic titles may serve as principal investigators, subject to the approval of the Department Chair and Dean in which the employee is employed, the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs and the Vice President of Research.

### **IV. Department Assurance**

A request or approval should include an endorsement and an assurance that the department and college/school will assume responsibility for the conduct of the grant or contract.

### **V. Roles and Responsibilities of the PI**

A PI's roles and responsibilities shall be further provided for in procedures as established by the Division of Research.

### **VI. Principal Investigator Training**

All PI's, existing and potential, shall attend a mandatory certification training course as a criteria for PI eligibility.

### **VII. Relationships between PI, University and Sponsored Project**

#### A. Sponsored Project Awarded to University

Sponsored projects and their funding are awarded to the University, rather than to PIs. If a PI should leave the University prior to the completion of a sponsored project, the future of that project shall be governed by the terms of the sponsored agreement, the wishes of the sponsor, the University and the PI, as is appropriate in the specific circumstances.

**B. Relationship of PI to University**

The PI's relationship to the University is governed by the University's appointment/employment contract document. The approval of individuals as PI or Co-PIs in no way affects the rights, claims and duties of such individuals as may be specified in University rules and other documents governing the individual's employment. In particular, responsibilities as PI or co-PI do not imply any commitment on the part of the University to any subsequent appointment beyond the term of appointment than in effect.

**C. Rescinding PI Status**

An individual status as a PI may be rescinded for just cause, but the individual may appeal the decision in accordance with applicable University policies and procedures.