

OFFICE OF GRANT & CONTRACT (OGCS) SERVICES

PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO BE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS (PIs) OR PROJECT DIRECTORS (PDs) FOR SPONSORED PROJECTS

Revised: September 16, 2011

The University encourages faculty members, individually or in groups, to seek outside support for research that will contribute to new knowledge. Although the University has established various procedures related to the conduct of research projects, the responsibility for managing these projects lies with authorized principal investigators or project directors.

Only the University, acting on behalf of the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System, can accept a grant or contract from an outside sponsoring agency. The official designated by the Regents to enter into these agreements is the University President; who, in turn, has delegated this authority for proposal submission and award acceptance to the Vice President for Research and specific other individuals in writing.

Certain legal and ethical obligations are stated or implied in these documents of agreement. The University becomes responsible for the proper performance of the stated work and for fiscal management of the funds received from the sponsor. Sponsors usually require that an individual be named to oversee the project with the reasonable assurance that the agreed responsibilities will be discharged faithfully and prudently in the mutual interest of the sponsor and the University and over the full period of the award.

In order to implement these obligations only individuals in the categories shown below are authorized to be principal investigators (PIs) or project directors (PDs) for sponsored projects. The fundamental requirement is that these individuals must be permanent employees of the University. For faculty in professional ranks, the status of either tenured or tenure earning track is implicit in the definition of permanent employee. In other rare instances individuals may be authorized only with the prior written approval of the Department Chair or Vice President for Research.

1. Members of the faculty in professional ranks

Chair

Professor

Associate Professor

Assistant Professor

2. Administrative/Professional positions

President

Dean

Provost Associate

Dean

Vice Provost Assistant

Dean

Vice President

Director

Senior Vice President

Associate Director

Associate Vice President

Assistant Director

Assistant Vice President

3. Research – Scientific positions

Social Science/Humanities Research Associate: Level I through V

Research Engineering/Science Associate: Levels I through V

Faculty Associates – Research

A few examples of individuals generally not eligible to be a principal investigator/project director are:

Undergraduate or graduate students (unless the sponsor's award is to the University on behalf of a specific individual).

Visiting professors (any rank)

Visitors in a post-doctoral position

Adjunct Professors

Anyone not in a permanent employee status (defined to be less than 50% time)

Questions about an individual not falling in any of these categories should be directed to the Office of

Grant and Contract Services (ext. 2105) for clarification.