

RESOLUTION-POLICY

X	Action Item
	For Information Only

From: Dr. Eric Milou, Rowan University Senate President

To: Dr. James Newell, Interim Provost

Date: 3/6/12

RE: Senate Resolution 120302-2

Policy on Ensuring Compliance with Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Requirements by Federal Funding Agencies

Background

As part of the implementation of Section 7009 of the *America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science* (COMPETES) Act, the National Science Foundation (NSF) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) have enacted policies requiring faculty, staff and students (both undergraduate and graduate) who are engaged in sponsored research undergo training in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR). Furthermore, these funding agencies require the University to monitor and track that all such researchers have received RCR training.

In April 2007, the Rowan University Senate has passed a resolution entitled “Resolution on Establishment of a Training Program for Ethical & Responsible Conduct of Research.” The resolution requires faculty and graduate students (only) to undergo RCR training, as established by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, and that necessary checkpoints shall be implemented so that the training requirements can be enforced.

In accordance with the University senate resolution the Research Office webpage provided a link to a web-based training in RCR, hosted by the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) for faculty and students. As of February 1, 2008, faculty receiving research awards were required to complete the training as a condition of their award.

However, a review of current practice in the University indicates that the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs cannot track whether faculty and students have completed the required RCR training, nor does it address the issue of undergraduate students supported on research projects.

In summary, we are currently not in full compliance with NSF and NIH statutes for the Responsible Conduct of Research, which can jeopardize sponsored research at the University.

Proposed Amendments to Senate Resolution

The following policy is proposed for ensuring compliance, effective January 1, 2012:

1. The Research Office website www.rowan.edu/research will host the CITI training module for the Responsible Conduct of Research, which will allow an electronic certificate to be generated on completion and e-mailed to the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP).
2. All faculty, prior to submitting grant proposals will be required to complete RCR training. OSP will not submit a proposal if they do not have RCR training completion certificates from the PI, Co-PI and any other named investigators.
3. All students (graduate or undergraduate) will be required to complete RCR training prior to appointment as research assistants supported by grant funds. If RCR training completion certificates are not available from the student research assistant before the end of their first pay-period, their appointment will be placed on hold, until RCR training is completed.
4. All new faculty that are hired at the University will be required to complete RCR training during Summer Orientation conducted by the Faculty Center.
5. Faculty and students (undergraduate and graduate) currently supported on research grants will be required to complete RCR training by April 30, 2012. Following that date, expenditures from grants funds will not be allowed until RCR certificates from the respective faculty and students are available in OSP.

Additional Information

The NSF statutory requirement is "The Director shall require that each institution that applies for financial assistance from the Foundation for science and engineering research or education describe in its grant proposal a plan to provide appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research to undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers participating in the proposed research project."

NIH requires that all trainees, fellows, participants, and scholars receiving support through any NIH training, career development award (individual or institutional), research education grant, and dissertation research grant must receive instruction in responsible conduct of research.

Acceptance:

_____ I give my approval. I have forwarded this item to _____ for implementation.

_____ No approval is actually needed. I have forwarded this item to the following individual or office for informational purposes only:

ADDITIONAL REVIEW NEEDED:

_____ I am willing to give approval if the following modification(s) are made:

_____ Before I can approve or reject this item, I need clarification on the following:

_____ I have forwarded this item to the following individual or office for further consideration and consultation.

Rejection:

_____ I decline acceptance of this item for the following reason:

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