



FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY
Board of Trustees Policy

Board of Trustees Policy Number:
2005-09

Date of Adoption: June 30, 2005
Date of Revision: _____ . ____, 2020

Subject	Principal Investigator Policy
Authority	1004.22, F.S.; BOG Regulation 1.001, formerly found under F.S. 1001.74 Powers and duties of university BOT; FAMU Regulation 1.021 Authority of the President formerly found under F.S. 1001.75; FAMU Regulations 1.019 University Code of Conduct; 4.002 College and School Governance; and 1.020 Misconduct in Research
Applicability	All regular, full-time faculty, A&P, USPS employees and OPS employees of the University

I. Policy Statement and Purpose

This document establishes the policy on who can qualify as a Principal Investigator (PI) or Co-Principal investigator (Co-PI) at Florida A&M University (FAMU). When a PI accepts sponsored funding, the person does so, on behalf of FAMU Board of Trustees 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 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.
- F. Regular Faculty is eligibility to act as a PI or co-PI on externally funded projects as 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.
- G. 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.

- H. 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.

- I. 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.

III. Procedures, Approvals/Responsibilities

A. Procedures

i. 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 grant or contract.

ii. Principal Investigator Training

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

iii. Relationships between PI, University and Sponsored Project

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.

iv. 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.

v. 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.

B. Approvals/Responsibilities

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

Attachment (s)	N/A
Hyperlink Addresses	https://www.flbog.edu/regulations/active-regulations/ http://www.famu.edu/regulations/Reg%201.021-Substantial%20Reorg%208.17.17%20Final.pdf http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=1000-1099/1004/Sections/1004.22.html