

M2020.21.31 Motion to Recommend Creation of Ad-Hoc University Committee to Review IDCR/Faculty Buyout Distribution and Allocation

Originator: Research Policies Committee

Whereas,

Indirect Cost Recovery (IDCR) and Faculty Buyout (FB) funds are the only sources of funding continuity for research faculty. IDCR and FB funds are often used by Principal Investigators (PIs) to fund graduate students and postdocs, invite speakers, and pay for travel, equipment, and materials. Monies from these funds are crucial for maintaining labs and research productivity. Research investigators should have substantial autonomy in determining how to utilize IDCR/FB funds and how these funds are taxed—especially during the transitional periods between grants.

Whereas,

The recent pandemic and the possibility of other financial risks required a redistribution and tax on monies that affect the university, colleges, departments, PIs, faculty, postdocs, and students.

Whereas,

The intention of the University of Memphis to become a Carnegie R1 institution requires the creation of favorable research conditions to attract high-quality professors.

Be it resolved that,

The Faculty Senate recommends that an Ad-hoc University Committee be formed to review current practices and provide recommendations to the administration related to IDCR/Faculty Buyout Distribution and Allocation (D&A). Further, it is recommended that the committee will:

1. consist of representatives of the Faculty Senate, Division of Business and Finance, the Division of Research and Innovation, the Project Management Group, and other interested faculty, chairs, and deans.
2. review current practices and recommend new practices and policies to formalize the process by which IDCR and FB funds are distributed and allocated to support the University of Memphis' research mission.
3. consult with colleges to modify the distribution and allocation processes as are required for the functioning of those colleges.
4. make recommendations which consider the needs of researchers regarding autonomy and taxation of IDCR/FB funds, especially during transitional periods, and the number of years that distributed funds are available to PIs.
5. disseminate the results of their efforts publicly on The University of Memphis website.

Recipients:

Faculty Senate

Tom Nemon, Provost

Helen Johnson, Office of the Provost

Jasbir Dhaliwal, Executive Vice President, Division of Research and Innovation

Raaj Kurapati, Executive Vice President and CFO, Division of Business and Finance