

# Report of the University Policy Review Committee to the Faculty Association Executive

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## Committee Members:

**Helga Hallgrimsdottir**, President, University of Victoria Faculty Association

**Lynne Marks**, Member-at-Large, University of Victoria Faculty Association

**Stephanie Willerth**, Member-at-Large, University of Victoria Faculty Association

## Date of Meeting:

November 4<sup>th</sup> 2015

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**Policy Reviewed:** Internal Research/Creative Project Grant

**Date Received by Association:** September 29th 2015

**Sent by:** Michael Miller, AVP Research

**Deadline (for Feedback or to Trigger a Joint Committee under CA Article 14.11): November 26th, 2015**

This is a revision of the existing IRG/Creative Project Grant Policy. The major revisions are:

- **Selection Committees:** The number of committees is being reduced to 3: NSERC/CIHR type research; SSHRC type research; Creative Projects
- **Eligibility:** a faculty member with tenure cannot apply the year after receiving a grant as principal or co-applicant
- **Team Grants:** team grants are to be offered as a pilot program
- **Tri-council Funding:** Faculty holding tri-council funding are eligible to apply if they demonstrate the application is for a novel initiative
- **Evaluation:** There has been an attempt to make the evaluation criteria and process more explicit as an aid to applicants and to promote consistent evaluation

## Comments and Recommendations to the Executive Committee:

The committee had the following concerns with regards to this policy:



- The funding guidelines do not give committees discretion to cut budgets; with higher grant amounts (associated with the Team Grant category especially) this will have the consequence of fewer applications being funded.
- The evaluation criteria do not place adequate protections for junior faculty.
- The evaluation criteria are not adequately explicit as to whether an application as PI for an external grant in the same year as the IRG application is a condition of an IRG award.

Overall, the committee would like to see this policy replicate more closely the policies and procedures used by the Tri-Council granting agencies, by giving committees more discretion to cut budgets, in order to share available funds among more applicants; and, by separating junior and senior faculty into separate applicant pools.

These proposed changes have the potential to affect a large majority of our members. The Committee therefore proposes that the Executive Committee send out a short survey to gauge how our members feel about these proposed changes and whether they would like to pursue policy changes around these areas.



**Policy Reviewed:** Research Funding Management and Financial Accountability; Procedures for Research Funding Management and Financial Accountability

**Date Received by Association:** September 25th 2015

**Sent by:** Michael Miller, AVP Research

**Deadline (for Feedback or to Trigger a Joint Committee under CA Article 14.11):** **November 24th, 2015**

This policy and its related procedure document constitute a new policy at the University of Victoria that are meant to make explicit the consequences if a research account is not properly managed.

#### **Comments and Recommendations to the Executive Committee:**

The committee had several recommendations for substantive revisions:

- Strengthen the language in 19 to make more explicit the University's responsibility in facilitating sound financial management
- Delete 20 as it restates what is said elsewhere and is essentially unenforceable.
- Make it explicit in 27 exactly what steps the University is able to take with respect to an unapproved Over-Expenditure.

However, more generally, the committee felt that the tone and the intent of the policy is overly focused on the punishment of faculty and not enough on the University's own responsibility in providing up-to-date and accessible information on the research accounting financial reporting system.

The committee was concerned that a more significant revision of the policy was required to address this concern. Therefore, the committee recommends to the Executive Committee that we trigger our consultation rights as specified under Article 14.11. Further to this, the committee recommends that the Association engage in formal consultation with Chairs and Directors, prior to the first meeting of the Joint Committee.