

Resolution of the Academic Council Restrictions on Research Funding Sources

**Submitted by the University Committee on Research Policy;
Adopted by the Academic Council July 21, 2004**

Whereas, Freedom of inquiry is a fundamental principle of the University of California; and

Whereas, The University of California faculty code of conduct requires that “[Professors] respect and defend the free inquiry of associates”; and

Whereas, The University of California policy on academic freedom requires that scholarship be judged solely by reference to professional standards, and that researchers “must form their point of view by applying professional standards of inquiry rather than by succumbing to external and illegitimate incentives such as monetary gain or political coercion”; and

Whereas, The University of California has existing policies that encourage the highest ethical standards in the conduct of research, require disclosure of conflicts of interest, guarantee the freedom of publication, and prevent misuse of the University's name; and

Whereas, Restrictions on accepting research funding from particular sources on the basis of moral or political judgments about the fund source or the propriety of the research, or because of speculations about how the research results might be used, interfere with an individual faculty member’s freedom to define and carry out a research program; and

Whereas, No Committee, Faculty, or Division of the Academic Senate of the University of California has the plenary authority either to set aside the principles of academic freedom or to establish policies on the acceptance of research funding; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the principles of academic freedom and the policies of the University of California require that individual faculty members be free to accept or refuse research support from any source, consistent with their individual judgment and conscience and with University policy. Therefore, no unit of the University should be directed (by faculty vote or administrative decision) to refuse to process, accept, or administer a research award based on the source of the funds; and no special encumbrances should be placed on a faculty member’s ability to solicit or accept awards based on the source of the funds.