

Dear Colleagues:

Does your School like receiving Gifts for Research? We have good news for you! It is now easier to accept Gifts for Research.

On November 21, 2015, we will complete the integration of the Gifts Transmittals system (GT) with the faculty Outside Professional Activities Certification System (OPACS). That is, the Conflicts of Interest (COI) review for Gift monies will be completed online and integrated with the GT system so that there will be no paper forms to track outside of the workflow. More importantly, we have overhauled the Gifts COI Review Criteria to be smarter and easier to review.

| | CURRENT REVIEW CRITERIA | NEW (As of 11/21/2015) |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Dollar Threshold for Review | \$1,000 and above | \$50,000 and above |
| Purpose | Gift is for Research, Teaching, or Scholarship | Gift is for Research (in whole or in part) |
| Recipient | * Individual Faculty Member's COI will be reviewed. * Program, Department, School, University "head" must still complete the form. | Individual Faculty Member's COI will be reviewed. |
| Donor | For-Profit, Non-Profit, Individual, Estate | For-Profit only |

Conflicts of Interest Review Criteria for donations relating to Research. Benchmarking has shown that other peer institutions use a \$100K threshold for Gifts COI review.

The result of this online integration, together with the new COI review criteria, will result in the number of required Gift COI forms from 13,000 to 100 per year. Yes, that's a 130X reduction in faculty and administrative burden!

Note that as we transition to this new COI review criteria, a random audit of Gifts Transactions across all Schools will be conducted to ensure that we are appropriately capturing COI-related transactions.

Clarifications:

There are two scenarios that previously may have been misunderstood to be COI issues: (1) Faculty giving gifts to their own Research, and (2) Sponsored Research vs. Gifts questions.

Gifts from faculty to their own research projects may be permissible. Such actions do not necessarily give rise to a conflict of interest. However, such faculty are encouraged to review the Faculty Handbook (5.1.C. Additional Compensation Policy, last paragraph) for clarification: <http://facultyhandbook.stanford.edu/ch5.html#supp>. Any Fund Accounting questions may be directed to Lynette Kruger, Interim Fund Accounting Manager: lynette.kruger@stanford.edu.

Sponsored Research vs. Gifts is also not a conflict of interest issue. These important questions will remain in the GT workflow, separate from the COI questions. Updates to the “Sponsored Research vs. Gifts” questionnaire are planned by Spring 2016 and will be fully integrated in the workflow of the Gifts Transmittals system. Further detail will be communicated then.

Any questions regarding the new Gifts COI Review criteria may be directed to Mary Lee/University Conflicts of Interest Program: marylee@stanford.edu

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Any questions regarding the new GT workflow may be directed to Brandy Kahlig/Development Services: bkahlig@stanford.edu.

Brandy Kahlig & Mary Lee