October 31, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

Stanford supports conditions that foster research integrity and the discovery and dissemination of new knowledge. We cherish our openness in research policy, our academic freedom, and our open learning environment. We exchange people and ideas with domestic and foreign collaborators to advance the frontiers of knowledge. We also maintain the highest standards of research integrity and compliance with government regulations and guidance. The U.S. federal government, members of the Stanford community, and the public have expressed concern regarding foreign entities, research integrity, and intellectual property security. Our policies and practices must protect our research integrity and thereby maintain and enhance our ability to openly exchange people and ideas with domestic and foreign collaborators to advance the frontiers of knowledge. It is therefore critically important to continually review, update, and improve our policies, practices and systems.

Last spring, we convened three groups.

- A Stanford Law School policy lab (Spring 2019) surveyed the national landscape and our policies and practices.
- A Foreign Influence Policies and Practices Advisory Committee (Spring and Summer 2019) reviewed the potential foreign interference risks associated with Stanford’s many global engagements. It also reviewed our policies and procedures for managing those risks including on international agreements and funding, researcher disclosures, and training and awareness.
- A Subcommittee of the Committee on Research (C-Res) (Spring and Summer 2019) considered the interaction between these issues and our cherished policies on Academic Freedom, Openness in Research, and Nondiscrimination in Research Agreements.

I commend these groups for their detailed and thorough work. At a high level, they reinforced our long-standing view that foreign relationships are a central and valued component of the core teaching, research, and public service mission of the University. They also acknowledged that there is the potential for the Stanford community to be exposed to a variety of risks that could undermine our mission and values. Overall, the groups affirmed our policies and practices to identify and mitigate these potential risks, but also indicated that further action may be warranted in some areas. Based on that work, Stanford University plans to take the following actions:
1. **Publicly reaffirm the value** of the international exchange of people and ideas, an open and nondiscriminatory research environment, academic freedom, and the appropriate treatment of intellectual property.

2. **Establish a Foreign Engagement Review Program (FERP)** to provide one-stop advice for faculty and administrators on foreign influence risks associated with specific engagements including gifts, industrial affiliates programs, sponsored research, fee-for-service agreements, and visitors. More details on this program will be forthcoming.

3. **Enhance visitor onboarding** so that long-term visitors to Stanford, including Visiting Scholars, regardless of country of origin, will receive information about campus policies, expectations, and other resources. Register all Visiting Scholars through our existing system for Faculty Academic Staff Appointments (FASA).

4. **Update export compliance processes** to reduce the administrative burden of identifying restricted parties as defined by the federal government.

5. **Improve communication and education** to increase awareness of expectations, regulations, and policies about foreign engagements, particularly the details and rationale for appropriate faculty disclosures.

6. **Review industry affiliates programs (IAPs)** to ensure current practices are in line with existing guidance and policies.

This topic is the subject of ongoing development within the federal agencies, Congress and the academic community. We will continue to assess these issues and provide updates to you as needed, working as appropriate with the Faculty Senate and other faculty groups. We will continue to review and update our policies and training to uphold our values and interests and to comply with all federal requirements.

Sincerely,

Kathryn A. Moler

Kathryn A. Moler, Ph.D.
Professor of Applied Physics and Physics
Vice Provost and Dean of Research