Definition of Principal Investigator / Project Director

Summary/Purpose: Who can serve as a principal investigator on an externally sponsored project at UM.

The Principal Investigator (or Project Director) of an externally sponsored project is the individual responsible for (1) the conduct of research, training, service, or other activity described in the proposal for the externally sponsored program, (2) fiscal management of the project, (3) all associated reporting requirements, and (4) maintenance of all related programmatic records.

The PI/PD of an externally sponsored project must be a permanent employee (faculty member or staff member) of the University at the time of sponsored program award acceptance and project execution. S/He must also be a permanent employee of the University at the time of proposal submission; however, the Department Head and Dean may request a waiver for such individuals that do not meet this requirement, such as newly hired faculty or staff. Approval by the Vice Chancellor for Research and Sponsored Programs is required.

The Department Head and Dean of the performing unit may recommend an individual who holds one of the following positions as a PI/PD: Adjunct faculty, Visiting faculty/staff, Post-Doctoral fellows/employees, or Emeritus faculty. Approval by the Vice Chancellor for Research and Sponsored Programs is required, and such requests are granted for a single submission only (or subsequent resubmission).

Approved by University Research Board, January 2009