

3. Conflict of Commitment

While there is currently no formal University policy on Conflict of Commitment, it is becoming an issue that needs to be addressed and managed. Conflict of Commitment may occur when an employee holds another position or conducts activities outside the University that may interfere with his or her primary University responsibilities. A conflict may not exist in every instance, but disclosure of the outside activities is important.

Kevin stated that with the creation of spin-off companies by research faculty, the focus of conflict of commitment is currently on research activities, but will soon be considered university-wide. Other universities have conflict of commitment policies in place. How should BC adopt a policy on conflict of commitment for the entire university? Should it be made part of the Conflict of Interest Policy?

URC members raised the question of how to define a full work week or the one day of consulting that is allowed at BC. How do you measure significant financial interest? How do we manage the conflicts? Right now, consulting activities are not captured on the Conflict of Interest Form.

Cost Sharing:

The policy has been written and processed for approval. Testing of the business process is underway. Implementation is anticipated in January.

7. Other Matters

RIG/REG:

Volunteers for membership on this subcommittee are needed. Please contact Kevin.

Faculty Day Research Awards:

A brief discussion took place and questions were raised about the faculty research awards. It was determined that we would continue with these awards, but find better ways to promote the award and get people to attend the award ceremony. It was suggested that the criteria for winning an award should be reviewed. It was also suggested that more awards of a greater amount should be made. Another suggestion was to identify a new venue or hold a reception for honoring the awardees.

Non-monetary support of Faculty Research:

Catherine told the URC that BC does not have a unique way of recognizing inventors. Catherine said that there are about 10-20 inventions a year. She suggested giving plaques or having a special reception or placing an announcement in the BC Chronicle to recognize inventors.

Faculty Compliance Responsibilities:

This is to be discussed at the next meeting.