POLICY NUMBER: I:01:15

DATE: May 2013

REVISION/REVIEW DATES: ____________

SUBJECT: Conflict of Interest Policy for JSU Sponsored Projects

APPROVED: William A. Meehan, President

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to mitigate conflicts of interest regarding sponsored projects. Some sponsoring agencies request that Principal Investigators (PIs) disclose any conflicts of interest regarding sponsored projects.

POLICY

The Institute for Research and Collaboration (IRC) was established to facilitate collaboration for sponsored projects across the campus and assist with research center establishment. The Institute ensures that JSU’s standards for performance are achieved by providing expertise to guide faculty through the life cycle of a project using standardized methods. The IRC also works with faculty to develop topic-specific research centers, allowing faculty to collaborate, publish findings, and receive recognition for their research efforts.

Conflict of interest is defined as conflict between public obligations and private interests of a public official. For a sponsored project, conflict of interest occurs when the PI can gain significant financial interest for sponsored programs. According to the National Science Foundation (NSF) Grant Manual, “significant financial interest” means anything of monetary value, including, but not limited to, salary or other payments for services (e.g., consulting fees or honoraria); equity interest (e.g., stocks, stock options or other ownership interests); and intellectual property rights (e.g., patents, copyrights and royalties from such rights). This applies to the spouse and children of the PI.

Also, a conflict of interest may occur when the PI is in a position to influence decisions or other outcomes on behalf of one party. Such decisions or outcomes could affect one or more other parties with which the PI has competing loyalties.

PIs are charged with notifying a responsible representative of Jacksonville State University if a conflict of interest arises as a result of sponsored research projects.

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PROCEDURE
Jacksonville State University chooses to proactively reduce or eliminate conflicts of interest by requiring public disclosure of significant financial interests, monitoring of research by independent reviewers, modification of the research plan, and disqualification from participation in the portion of the sponsoring agency’s funded research that would be affected by significant financial interests.

References:

RESPONSIBILITY
Executive Director for the IRC is responsible for this policy.

EVALUATION
This policy will be reviewed every five years.