

University of Missouri-Columbia Research Council
Principles and Standards of Conduct
August 2001

To engender the confidence of the University community, members of the Research Council adhere to these principles and standards:

- 1) The deliberations of the Research Council are strictly confidential.
 - 1.1) To this end, members shall not discuss details of any specific proposal, its relative ranking, or the names of its referees except with other Council members, Office of Research staff, and reviewers.
 - 1.2) Council members shall not advise potential applicants on the scholarly content of specific proposals.
 - 1.3) Direct communication between Council members and applicants concerning proposals (past, current, or pending) is expressly forbidden. All such communication shall be handled by the Vice Provost for Research.

- 2) The Research Council shall adhere to the highest standard of objectivity.
 - 2.1) Council members shall avoid favoritism toward their own college, department, or unit.
 - 2.2) Council members shall avoid taking any action that could be construed as leading to their personal, professional or financial gain.
 - 2.3) Council members shall excuse themselves from the portion of the meeting where a proposal they authored or co-authored will be discussed.
 - 2.4) Council members shall declare potential conflicts of interest before the Council discusses specific proposals. If a conflict is apparent, the member may refrain from discussing the proposal, may abstain from voting on the proposal, or other action deemed appropriate by the Council. Potential conflicts of interest may include applications from current or past collaborators, close personal friends or relatives, or persons from a member's home department who, for personal or professional reasons, may be perceived as exerting a special influence.