

Public Disclosure of External Funding

Partnerships between the university and external groups such as industry are a vital part of modern academia. Powerful interests, however, sometimes delay needed societal change by spreading misinformation and doubt. An important part of their strategy is to fund research, make gifts, and engage consultants and speakers at prominent universities. An example is the campaign by the tobacco industry in the 20th century. A partial antidote to such efforts, recommended by the American Association of University Professors, is transparency in funding, similar to that which has been widely adopted in the biomedical research community.

The proposed resolution aims to fill some gaps in our transparency policies. It is designed to have no new reporting requirements on the part of faculty.

The resolution has three parts. The first concerns research contracts and grants and would improve what the Office of the President already discloses. The second applies to gifts to the University, such as funds to centers and institutes, some of which is not presently disclosed. These two parts ask for public yearly reports on our funding. These reports would be generated by Research Affairs and Development Offices from existing databases. The third part of the resolution has no required reporting and simply exhorts researchers to follow best practice norms on financial and non-financial disclosure.

For the vast majority of UCSD professors, there is no hint of any untoward monetary influence on their research. Greater transparency would discourage attempts at such influence, and it would protect our reputation from harm when such attempts are belatedly discovered and publicized. Transparency will give Californians better reason to trust our research in an age where misinformation thrives.

American Association of University Professors, 2012. [Recommended Principles to Guide Academy-Industry Relationships](#).

Proposed Resolution: San Diego Division of the Academic Senate

UC San Diego Policy on Public Disclosure

The San Diego Division of the Academic Senate proposes that:

1. All externally-sponsored research projects shall be disclosed yearly in a publicly accessible database. The project sponsor, project title, amount of funding, and the name of the principal investigators will all be disclosed and the registry maintained by the campus.
2. All academic units of the university (e.g., schools, departments, centers, institutes) shall publicly disclose all gifts of \$10,000 or more and restrictions on those gifts. These donations should be listed at least yearly.

And we exhort university researchers

3. To adopt the norm of explicitly disclosing the financial and non-financial relationships that obtain between the funder and researcher in all public communications regarding their research (e.g., articles, websites, presentations) in contexts where they reasonably can be taken to be speaking as a university expert.