

# SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY

## Principal Investigator Eligibility Policy

### I. Purpose

To Define Principal Investigator Eligibility at Slippery Rock University.

### II. Objectives

To outline the procedures to be followed for submission of grant proposals by faculty members to external sponsors and internal grant programs.

### III. Definitions

**Principal Investigator/Project Director (PI/PD):** an individual responsible for the preparation, conduct, intellectual leadership and administration of a grant, cooperative agreement, contract or other sponsored projects. The PI/PD accepts overall responsibility for directing the research, the financial oversight of the award's funding, as well as compliance with relevant University policies and federal regulations as well as sponsor terms and conditions of an award.

**Co-Investigator/Co-Project Director (Co-I/Co-PD):** an individual who is key personnel with responsibilities similar to that of a PI on research projects. While the PI/PD has ultimate responsibility for the conduct of a research project, the Co-I/Co-PD is also obligated to ensure the project is conducted in compliance with applicable laws and regulations and institutional policy governing the conduct of sponsored research.

### IV. Policy

All full-time, regular, exempt employees at Slippery Rock University are eligible to serve as PI/PD for internally and externally-funded grants and contracts proposed by or awarded to the University sponsors.

Temporary and adjunct faculty members and other temporary or part-time exempt employees may be eligible to serve as Co-I/Co-PD for internally and externally-funded grants and contracts with written prior approval of their chair/supervisor and Dean/Vice President. A full-time regular, exempt employee must serve as the PI/PD.

The approval from the supervisor/chair and the Dean/Vice President shall not be pro forma, but shall consider the academic quality of the proposal, the qualifications of the proposed PI/PD and Co-I/Co-PD, and the relevance and importance of the proposal to other activities of the University. This documentation should accompany the proposal submitted to the Office of Grants, Research and Sponsored Programs.

A succession plan will also need to be submitted with the grant proposal in the case that the temporary or adjunct faculty member and other temporary or part-time exempt employees are no longer employed at SRU during the project period of the grant.

In rare and unusual circumstances, the department chair/supervisor and Dean/Vice President will consider approving grant proposals for non-tenured/non-tenure track faculty and temporary or part-time exempt employees at the time the proposal is submitted, but will be appointed as tenure-track or full-time regular exempt employees prior to the funding of the proposal. In such cases, a letter must be obtained from the Department chair/supervisor, that is approved by the Dean/Vice President, stating that the employee will be given a tenure-track position or full-time regular exempt position prior to the funding of the proposal and that the appointment is not contingent on the funding of the proposal.