Policy Summary

The University is committed to the principle that research is to be conducted in an open and unrestricted manner.

Full Policy Text

For information on this policy, please see: http://ursa.research.gsu.edu/download/openness-in-research-policy.pdf

Administration of Policy

Mandating Authority:
University Senate

Responsible Office(s):
Senate Committee on Research
University Research Services and Administration (Dalberg Hall, 3-3500)

Responsible Executive(s):

Policy History

Approving Body: Senate

Rationale or Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidance for the determination of acceptable restrictions on the openness of research.

Additional Information

Guidelines

A. The University shall not accept support from any source for research under a grant or contract that would limit the University from disclosing the:

- Sponsor,
- Amount of funding,
• Time period,
• Title, or
• Nature of the project or the research results.

B. The University shall not accept support from any source for research under a grant or contract if
the grant or contract prohibits the open publication or dissemination of results within a reasonable
period of time. Provision may be made for a short delay in the submittal of papers for publication of
research results (normally not to exceed 90 days) for patenting purposes or to allow for sponsor
review and comment on manuscripts.

C. No thesis or dissertation will be accepted for partial fulfillment of degree requirements that
cannot be freely published or disseminated, including storage in the University Library. Provision
may be made for a short delay in publication and storage in the University Library for the purpose of
filing a patent application.

Exceptions

A. In a program of research involving a living human being, reasonable provisions may be made to
protect the rights of the individual to privacy.

B. In a program of research, the purposes of which would be significantly advanced by access to
classified information, the relationship between the classified data and the overall research endeavor
must be sufficiently remote so that:

• a member of the research group who did not hold a security clearance would nevertheless be
able to participate fully in all of the intellectually significant portions of the project; and
• there is no substantial basis for an expectation that any part of the final results of the research,
or any but a trivial part of the research processes, will be subject to restriction on publication.

C. If an outside person or entity has made confidential or proprietary information available to the
investigator, provision may be made to preserve confidentiality and/or a short delay in the
publication of research results during which time the information source may examine the proposed
publication in order to assure that the investigator has not disclosed any portion of the confidential
information supplied. Any such provision for delay must contain assurance from the information
source that he/she will:

• conduct the review as expeditiously as possible,
• not attempt to thwart publication for any reason except to protect confidential information
previously supplied, and
• indicate with specificity a sentence or sentences that he/she contends constitute disclosure of
confidential information.

D. If private papers, documents, diaries or analogous materials have been provided to the
investigator, provision may be made to preserve the confidentiality of those materials for the purpose
of protecting the individual privacy of the author, the addressee, or the immediate family of either
the author or addressee.

E. In rare cases, the goals and objectives of the University may best be served by waiving parts of
this Policy. In such cases, exceptions to this policy can be made with the written approval of the
appropriate department chair, College/School Dean, and the Vice President for Research.

University Senate approval April 29, 2004
Additional Helpful Resources