

# Update on Recent Federal & State Requirements Related to Undue Foreign Influence

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# Agenda

- UF RISC Overview
- Federal and State Concerns
- Recent Federal Communications
- Recent State Legislation
- Questions

# UF Research Integrity, Security and Compliance

## Research Integrity

Includes Research Misconduct and Research Integrity Violations

## International Engagements & Collaboration

## Research Conflict of Interest

## Export Control

## Facility Security

Coordination with Research Services  
IRB, IACUC, Animal Care

NIH Letter to Grant Recipients

**Texas cancer center ousts 3 scientists over Chinese data theft concerns**  
The MD Anderson Cancer Center was among 55 medical research facilities contacted by the NIH over concerns of researchers' ties to foreign governments.



Florida  
House C  
JA

**FBI official addresses China influence investigations at Moffitt Cancer Center, UF**

Florida lawmakers were briefed on the investigations into Chinese attempts to meddle — and steal — American-funded research.

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Florida Passes HB 7017

OSTP Report on Research Security

National Security Memo 33

PAPPG Guidance  
Supporting Undisclo  
Activities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Monday, August 24, 2020

**Texas professor and NASA researcher arrested on charges related to China's Talents Program**

Texas A&M University professor working on U.S. space projects allegedly hid affiliations with Chinese state-owned academic and commercial institutions

NSF Guidance on Biosketches and Other Support

Senate Report on Talent Programs

Biosketches and Other Support

Provost and VPR Memo

Aug-18 Jan-19 Feb-19

NEWS / HEALTH

**Faculty members held jobs in China while working for UF, report says**

They also collected grant money from the U.S. government while never disclosing their outside work in China.

Apr-20 May-20 Jun-20 Aug-20 Dec-20 Jan-21 Jan-21 May-21 Jun-21 Oct-21

MD Anderson Fires 3 Scientists

Top Leaders at Moffitt Cancer Center Resign

NEWS | 03 February 2020

**Harvard chemistry chief's arrest over China links shocks researchers**

Nanoscientist Charles Lieber allegedly lied about his involvement in China's Thousand Talents Plan.

University of Arkansas Professor Arrested

**NATION**

**Former Florida professor indicted for fraudulently obtaining \$1.75M federal grant**

**Cindy Swirko** The Gainesville Sun  
Published 9:48 a.m. ET Feb. 5, 2021 | Updated 10:50 a.m. ET Feb. 5, 2021

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GAINESVILLE, Fla. — A former University of Florida associate professor and researcher has been indicted on allegations of fraudulently getting a federal grant by concealing ties with the Chinese government.

UF Professor Indicted



# Federal and State Concerns

- Unreported outside activities including professional appointments
  - Conflict of interest
  - Conflict of commitment
- Missing activities and resources on biosketches & other support
  - May impact sponsor funding decisions
- Publishing for parties other than your employer
- Long-term travel/alternate work locations
- Export Controls

# Federal Updates

- **Collaborations:** Depending on the nature of the collaboration, likely need to disclose to Sponsors
  - Foreign Component--if collaborator performing substantial part of the project
  - Other (Current & Pending) Support
    - Visiting researchers and students, not paid by UF or grant sources
    - Collaborations unfunded or on other research projects (they are seen to provide scientific or scholarly value to your work or you wouldn't be collaborating)
- **Outside activities & affiliations:** Disclose to UF & Sponsors
  - Must be listed on your Biosketch
  - Depending on the nature of the activity, may also need to be included in other support. Note: now includes visiting scholars, lab samples, equipment, etc.

# State Updates

- On 6/7/2021, the Governor signed HB7017-- Act Relating to Foreign Influence, which was passed unanimously by the Florida Legislature
- Most sections effective July 1, 2021 (Travel review requirement effective January 2022)
- UF must appoint Research Integrity office (UF RISC) for screening and approvals related to hiring researchers and travel
- Many restrictions related to “Countries of Concern”

## Countries of Concern

China

Russia

Iran

North Korea

Cuba

Venezuela

Syria



# Foreign Influence and Disclosure Task Force

- Chaired by Vice President for Research
- Representatives from across campus
- Tasked with assessing risk, identifying solutions & minimizing burden to campus
- Working Groups focus of specific bill components (screening, gifts, travel, data & systems, etc.)

## Membership

RISC

Sponsored Programs

Compliance & Ethics

General Counsel

Conflict of Interest

UF HR

Controller

Graduate School

Faculty Representatives



# HB7017 At a Glance

Section & Title	Requirements	Responsible Office
1010.25--Foreign Gift Reporting	UF must report any contract, gift, grant, endowment, award, or donation of money or property of any kind received directly or indirectly from a foreign source with a value of \$50,000 or more during the fiscal year.	UF Compliance and Ethics
288.860--International Cultural Agreements	Limits certain cultural agreements with countries of concern, when those countries control the curriculum.	UF Compliance and Ethics
1010.36--Foreign travel, research institutions	UF must establish an international travel program to review and approve all international travel	UF RISC in coordination with Finance and Accounting (Travel)
1010.35--Screening foreign researchers	UF RISC required to review and approve all applications for research and research support positions	UF RISC in coordination with UFHR

\* Bill also includes 286.101--Foreign Gifts and Contracts, which has limited applicability to UF since IHEs follow 1010.25

# 1010.36—Foreign travel, research institutions

- By January 1, 2022, must establish an international travel approval and monitoring program.
- UF RISC must review and approve all employment-related international travel
  - Traveler's must agree to follow all UF policies, state statutes and federal laws while traveling
  - Website with more information in coming weeks
- Other requirements related to document retention and annual reporting to the BOG on travel to countries of concern

# 1010.35—Screening foreign researchers

- Prior to hire, UF RISC required to review and approve all applications for research and research support positions, including
  - Faculty and staff, graduate students and applicants for positions of visiting researcher (international visitors)
- Applicant materials must include all post-high school education and employment, publications, ongoing professional affiliations and outside activities, and current and pending funding
- Task Force focus is to minimize burden on researchers and selection committees



# 1010.35—Screening foreign researchers

- Phased rollout of screening requirements
- Phase 1: International Visitors
  - New International Visitor policy and procedure started in August
  - All applications for international visitors on a J-1, J-2 or B visa must be reviewed and approved by UF RISC prior to visa processing and arrival
  - Current participants include Colleges of Engineering & Pharmacy and parts of IFAS. Rollout continuing through 2021.
- Screening of other populations in future phases; continue to follow current UF policies & processes for faculty, staff and student applications for now





Questions?