Summary data of corporate sponsored research exceptions
October 31, 2012

The original policy was approved by Board of Visitors on May 15, 2009, the current policy was revised and approved on 4/15/2012.

The policy has a provision that allows the Vice President for Research (VPR) to review and approve agreements falling outside the norms of the policy. The policy stipulates that the VPR will notify the Research Development Advisory Council (ReDAC) of his intention to allow an exception. A ReDAC review of the decision will be initiated only upon a request by a majority of ReDAC members. In certain cases, the Vice President for Research may request ReDAC review and recommendation of an agreement outside the norm. To facilitate its review, ReDAC has the responsibility to recruit expert faculty if needed. The VPR is to report to the Faculty Senate on a regular basis concerning review activities and decisions that fall outside the norms of this policy.

(Note: to provide some context, in an average year VCU will negotiate over 500 contracts/agreements that are subject to this policy.)

Requests for exception that have come to the Vice President for Research

- 33 requests for exceptions between May 2009 and October 31, 2012
  - 14 requests for extension of confidentiality beyond the 5 year limit
    all denied
  - 1 request for publication rights to be prohibited
    denied
  - 15 requests for delays in publication to allow more time for reviews and/or patent protection; requests ranged from 105 – 120 days; requests related to additional time needed for communication with international partners, and researchers at other study sites
    all approved
  - 1 request for VCU to accept trade secrets as part of the confidentiality terms
    denied
  - 2 miscellaneous requests
    Request to establish grant agreement rather than MTA – approved
    Exception to having to mark everything as confidential that is verbally understood to be confidential – approved