Policy on Distinguished Professor Scholars Fund
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Background

Distinguished Professors at Rensselaer are awarded a scholars fund to augment their scholarly activities. The purpose of a scholars fund is to support the scholarly and professional activity of a distinguished chair holder to extend his/her impact to advance the University and/or the scholar's field of research.

The Institute sets the overall basic compensation of its faculty through standard nine month appointments. The Institute allows a number of privileges that only faculty enjoy, such as augmentation of salary (summer salary) through research contracts limited by federal and university policies, through consulting (also limited by university policies), and faculty benefit from the exploitation of intellectual property through the application of the Institute's Intellectual Property Policy. Use of a chair holder's scholars fund for personal salary or supplemental pay would result in the use of the fund for purposes for which it was not intended. The use of scholars funds for personal compensation, therefore, is inappropriate.

Policy

Use of the scholars fund for any form of personal compensation is against University policy.

Examples for appropriate use of the scholars fund include, but are not limited to:

- Exploratory personal research
- Exploratory group research with colleagues and students
- Development of multi-investigator efforts and proposals
- Organizing campus conferences
- Support for visiting scholars
- Support for graduate students
- Support for undergraduate research

Approved: approved on 8/27/08 / /
Shirley Ann Jackson, President Date