



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT - RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
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Oakland, California 94607-5200

December 5, 2024

CHANCELLORS
ACADEMIC COUNCIL CHAIR CHEUNG
LABORATORY DIRECTOR WITHERELL
ANR VICE PRESIDENT HUMISTON

Re: Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Dual Use Research of Concern and Pathogens with Enhanced Pandemic Potential

Dear Colleagues:

Enclosed for systemwide review is the proposed Presidential Policy on Dual Use Research of Concern and Pathogens with Enhanced Pandemic Potential (DURC-PEPP Policy). This policy revises the current [UC Dual Use Research of Concern Policy](#) with new and updated provisions, per the White House [communication](#) on dual use research issued May 6, 2024.

Specifically, the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) issued the [United States Government Policy for Oversight of Dual Use Research of Concern \(DURC\) and Pathogens with Enhanced Pandemic Potential \(PEPP\) \(USG Policy\)](#). The USG Policy addresses oversight of research with biological agents and toxins that, when enhanced, have the potential to pose risks to public health, agriculture, food security, economic security, or national security. The USG Policy will go into effect on May 6, 2025, and it supersedes previous federal government DURC and PEPP policies and guidance.

The proposed UC Presidential Policy, renamed to Dual Use Research of Concern and Pathogens with Enhanced Pandemic Potential, will implement the changes made by the new USG Policy. It includes the following:

- Adoption of the USG Policy for the institutional review and oversight of research with biological agents or toxins categorized as DURC (Category 1) or PEPP (Category 2).
- The expectation that UC Locations review federally and non-federally funded research for DURC and PEPP. However, it allows UC Locations to develop a different oversight framework for non-federally funded research, provided that it is consistent with the principles of the USG Policy.
- A succinct description of the Compliance Responsibilities for Principal Investigators, UC Location Institutional Contacts for Dual Use Research, and Vice Chancellors for Research (and their equivalents at ANR and LBNL).

- A Procedures Section that provides high-level requirements for compliance with the USG Policy.

In revising the current policy, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination engaged with campus Institutional Contacts for Dual Use Research (ICDURs), campus Biosafety Officers (BSOs), campus High-Containment Lab Directors, Export Control Officers, and UC Legal.

Systemwide Review

Systemwide review is a public review distributed to the Chancellors, the Chair of the Academic Council, the Director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and the Vice President of Agriculture and Natural Resources requesting that they inform the general University community, especially affected employees, about policy proposals. Systemwide review also includes a mandatory, 90-day full Senate review.

Employees should be afforded the opportunity to review and comment on the draft policy. Attached is a Model Communication which may be used to inform non-exclusively represented employees about these proposals. Systemwide Labor Relations at the Office of the President is responsible for informing the bargaining units representing union membership about policy proposals.

We would appreciate receiving your comments no later than Monday, March 17, 2025. Please submit your comments to RPAC@ucop.edu. If you have any questions, please contact Timothy Miller at Timothy.Miller@ucop.edu.

Sincerely,



Theresa A. Maldonado, Ph.D., P.E.
Vice President for Research & Innovation

Enclosures:

- 1) Draft Presidential Policy on Dual Use Research of Concern and Pathogens with Enhanced Pandemic Potential (clean copy)
- 2) Draft Presidential Policy on Dual Use Research of Concern and Pathogens with Enhanced Pandemic Potential (tracked-changes copy)
- 3) Model Communication

cc: President Drake
Provost and Executive Vice President Newman
Executive Vice Chancellors/Provosts
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Nava

Executive Vice President Rubin
Senior Vice President Bustamante
Vice President and Vice Provost Gullatt
Interim Vice Provost Haynes
Vice President and Chief of Staff Kao
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Associate Vice President Matella
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Deputy General Counsel Woodall
Assistant Vice Provosts/Assistant Vice Chancellors for Academic Personnel
Deputy Chief HR Officer and Chief of Staff Henderson
Executive Director Anders
Executive Director Lin
Executive Director Teaford
Acting Chief of Staff Garber
Chief of Staff Levintov
Chief Policy Advisor McAuliffe
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Associate Director Garcia
Associate Director Soria
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Research Policy Manager Miller
Policy Analyst Durrin
Administrative Officer Babbitt
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