# Weitzman School of Design

# Faculty Research Participation

# Purpose

Weitzman faculty lead and actively participate in local and global projects with external sponsors and clients, and often collaborate with other faculty across the University. In an effort to increase support for Weitzman’s infrastructure and to cover the costs of doing research on behalf of the University, faculty are strongly encouraged to follow these rules for participation in research with the goal of increasing indirect cost recovery (ICR) revenue to the School. While 20% of the ICRs are returned to the faculty (see ICR Faculty Allocation Policy), the remainder of the funds are used to offset a portion of the School’s costs of supporting research.

Definitions

Faculty participate in research activities by entering contracts with sponsors and clients as lead principal investigators (PIs) or project managers (PMs), as co-PIs or PMs collaborating with other faculty, or as a subcontractor to another PIs or PMs research.

Indirect costs are calculated based on a percentage of the direct expenditures and are used to support faculty, and offset a portion of the cost of space (where applicable), computing, utilities, library access, legal, insurance, accounting, payroll, and School and departmental administration. The School will apply the appropriate indirect cost rate to the direct cost of the project based on the University’s federal *pre-negotiated* rates, a *non-negotiable* rate allowed by the sponsor (i.e. foundations) or client, a *negotiated* rate between the PI/PM and the sponsor or client, or the stated rate in a fully executed cooperative agreement.

Rules of Participation and ICRs

Indirect cost recovery is allocated to the home School of the PI/PM if the awarded proposal is:

* Routed through the faculty’s home School, or
* Routed through another School at Penn with a separate budget for the PI/PM’s home School

To *maximize* the amount of ICRs coming to the home School, the following protocols are encouraged when faculty participate in research activities:

1. Strive for the highest indirect cost rate allowable – minimum is 20%.
2. Lead PI or PM proposals go through Weitzman’s Research Support Center (RSC).
3. Co-PI/PM proposals with other schools at Penn require a separate budget approved by the RSC. Upon award, the other school establishes a *subaccoun*t to Design.
4. Proposals with indirect cost rates below Weitzman’s minimal internal overhead rate of 20% should try to build the rate difference into the direct expenditures.