

Heard, Julia

From: Office of the MSU Provost <provost@montana.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 8:17 AM
Subject: Student projects involving external university partners
Attachments: MOU Student Project with instruction sheet.docx



Office of the Provost

Dear Deans and Department Heads,

Montana State University students often work on a variety of academic or research projects in collaboration with external University partners. These types of projects include undergraduate senior capstone projects, course assignments and laboratory research. External partners on these projects can include private entities, organizations and other government agencies.

Many of these projects involve confidential or proprietary information of the project partner or sponsor. As a result, students are often required to sign an agreement advising them that their participation in the project is voluntary and that they assign any rights they have in the project to the University partner or sponsor.

When students are required to assign the rights of their work to the project partner or sponsor, **students must also be advised that they have the option of requesting an alternative assignment or project if they do not want to assign their rights.** While we generally do not expect students to request an alternative assignment because of the value of the experience, faculty need to be prepared to provide an alternative option.

The Office of Legal Counsel and Technology Transfer Office have developed the attached form to be used as a template agreement for students participating in such projects, whether as part of a capstone project, research project or course assignment. Please be sure that you are using the correct version of this agreement for any such sponsored projects.

These projects give our students the opportunity to translate theoretical information into practical knowledge. They foster analytical and critical thinking, increase academic achievement and retention, create opportunities for

teamwork and the development of important lifelong skills, and promote enrollment in graduate school programs. These types of experiences are a valuable part of the student learning experience at MSU and we want them to continue while we also ensure that our faculty understand the process that is required to align our practices with intellectual property law and policy.

If you have any questions about the use of the form or the requirement to offer students the option of choosing an alternative option, please contact Daniel Juliano (Director of MSU Technology Transfer) at daniel.juliano@montana.edu or Jennifer Glad (Associate Legal Counsel) at jenniferglad@montana.edu.

I request that you ensure that faculty in your area who involve students in project-related work with external university partners are informed of this requirement and process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob".

Dr. Robert L. Mokwa | Executive Vice President and Provost
Montana State University
Tel. 406-994-4371

Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
Montana Hall | P.O. Box 172560 | Bozeman, MT 59717-2560
www.montana.edu | provost@montana.edu | 406-994-4371