

From: [Scott Jordan](#)
To: [fas-emp-announce](#)
Subject: Important Changes to FAS/SEAS Research Compliance
Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 12:35:06 PM

Dear Colleagues,

Research compliance at Harvard has always been a shared responsibility, reflecting the creativity, flexibility, and multidisciplinary nature of our research community. In recent years, the compliance landscape has moved at an unprecedented pace, challenging our research enterprise, its structure, and our ability to adjust to new requirements and regulations.

We are pleased to announce that the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS), including the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS), and the Office of the Vice Provost for Research have established a shared Research Compliance Program (RCP). **Under this program, staff from the Office of the Vice Provost for Research (OVPR) will assume operational and administrative responsibility of certain research compliance functions, effective February 15, 2023.** The research compliance functions to be transferred to OVPR include faculty/researcher outside activities and conflicts of interest, export control, and international collaborations.

This change, which is a direct response to, and in consideration of the needs both expressed and identified by the research community at large as well as independent assessments over the last number of years, will ensure that research within the FAS and SEAS remains at the forefront in its innovation, discoveries, and capabilities. By aligning the research compliance functions within the Schools and the OVPR, the RCP will provide efficient support for our faculty engaged in sponsored research, while minimizing risks that arise for faculty, researchers, and our institution as a result of the increasingly complex research compliance landscape.

The RCP will be governed by an Executive Committee consisting of the Dean of FAS, the Dean of SEAS, and the Vice Provost for Research (VPR), and additional governance will be provided by an Executive Operations Committee (EOC) comprising various central and divisional offices including but not limited to Office of Faculty Affairs, Harvard University Information Technology, Office of Technology Development, Office for Sponsored Programs, the various FAS divisions and other critical constituents. This group will be co-chaired by the FAS Associate Dean for Research Administration, Lauren Ferrell (lauren_ferrell@harvard.edu), the SEAS Dean for Research, David Hwang (dhwang@seas.harvard.edu), and a senior compliance officer from OVPR.

During the first few months of transition, the EOC will meet regularly to establish and communicate out clear workflows and procedures for how this compliance work will be accomplished. The EOC will communicate details of the operational changes, timelines, and other meaningful guidance and resources once they are ready for distribution.

Beginning **February 15**, for all **new compliance** requests, please use the following email addresses for support:

General Inquiry: rcp@harvard.edu

Export Control: RCP_exportcontrol@harvard.edu

Outside Activities and Conflict of Interest: RCP_outsideactivities@harvard.edu

International Collaborations: RCP_internationalcollaborations@harvard.edu

For previously submitted requests, there is no further action needed. The FAS email accounts you have been using to date will remain open and will forward to the new email accounts.

If you have any questions or concerns during the transition, please send an email to: rcp@harvard.edu.

Thank you for your patience and readiness to support these efforts as we solidify the implementation of this important work.

Regards,

Scott Jordan

FAS Dean of Administration and Finance

Chris Stubbs

Dean of Science

Samuel C. Moncher Professor of Physics and of Astronomy

Frank Doyle

John A. Paulson Dean

John A. & Elizabeth S. Armstrong Professor of Engineering & Applied Sciences

John H. Shaw

Vice Provost for Research

Harry C. Dudley Professor of Structural and Economic Geology

Professor of Environmental Science and Engineering