



TO: University Research Community

FROM: Robert A. Weygand, Vice President for Administration

DATE: March 29, 2007

SUBJECT: Research Purchasing

I am pleased to inform you that on February 26, 2007, the Office of Higher Education and the Board of Governors for Higher Education approved guidelines for use at the University of Rhode Island in compliance with RIGL 37-2-18.2 which exempts research or research related activity funded with federal or other third-party funds from the state competitive bidding regulations.

We have been meeting internally at URI over the last six months to garner agreement for such procedures. There has been a very positive response from the research community for these guidelines. This legislative relief has been much sought after to allow greater flexibility for collaborative work by faculty and researchers. Of course, this legislation will not remove our responsibility for prudent purchases of goods and services. Nor will these new regulations change purchasing requirements for state funded (full or partial) purchases.

I invite you to review and adopt these new procedures which can be viewed in Section 2.3 of the URI Purchasing Manual located at <http://www.uri.edu/purchasing/>. As clarifications are needed, the purchasing manual will be modified accordingly.

This is a very positive and long awaited step toward promoting research at the University. Thanks go to the many dedicated faculty and staff who have provided support and assistance in moving this initiative forward.

If you have any questions about these procedures, please contact the Purchasing Department at x42171.

Robert A. Weygand  
Vice President for Administration