UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
SPONSORED PROGRAMS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Section A: Funding Opportunities
Policy A2: Organized Research

Purpose:
To establish the activities that are defined as organized research and identify the instances in which the university will account for these programs.

Definitions:
Organized Research: Investigation or experimentation activities that the university budgets and accounts for separately. These activities are aimed at the discovery and interpretation of facts, the revision of accepted theories in light of new facts, or the application of such new or revised theories.

Policy:
Sponsored Programs – (Post Award) Financial Administration (SP) will separately budget and account for all research projects which are funded by external sources (i.e., federal and nonfederal sponsoring agencies).

References:
OMB Circular A-21, subsection B.1.b.

Procedures:
1. The university’s accounting system accounts for each research project under a project account number unique to the project. (See Sponsored Programs Policy/Procedure D1, “FRS Account Number Assignment.”)

2. The sponsored award will normally indicate if the award has been given for a research project. When the award does not identify the type of effort to be performed, Research Administration or Pre-Award Office (RA) and SP will work together with the principal investigator (PI) to determine whether the sponsored award is for research. This decision will be based on the award instrument, the scope of work, and the objective of the project.
3. Research activities that are funded by intramural or departmental funds can be accounted for as organized research. The department head and/or chair must decide whether such a research project should be accounted for as organized research. This decision is to be based on the following criteria:

– the needs of the department and the university to have the research activity separately budgeted and accounted for; and
– the amount of funds involved in the research activity as they relate to total departmental costs.