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Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station
Mississippi State University Extension Service

MEMORANDUM

TO: MAFES and MSU-ES Department Heads

FROM: Dr. George Hopper, Director
Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station
Dr. Gary Jackson, Director
Mississippi State University Extension Service

DATE: 7/29/2013

SUBJECT: Changes to MAFES/MSU-ES handling of General Memorandums of Agreements (GMOAS)

General Memorandums of Agreement (GMOAs) are used to facilitate unrestricted support of research/extension activities associated with a specific department, commodity, program, or principal investigator. GMOAs are an appropriate contractual vehicle when the following conditions are met:

1. The sponsor acknowledges that the funds are provided for unrestricted, "generic" support of a particular research/extension program,
2. The sponsor requires/provides no specific scope of work or protocol to be implemented in the research/extension activity,
3. The sponsor expects/requires no specific deliverables associated with the research/extension activities,
4. The total amount of the support is less than or equal to \$50,000.
5. Agreements not meeting these criteria may be more appropriately processed as a Specific Memorandum of Agreement (SMOA).

Effective July 1, 2013, MAFES and MSU-ES Administration will implement the following operating procedures with regard to handling of GMOAs.

1. The maximum allowable support under a given GMOA from a given sponsor will be no more than \$50,000.
2. GMOAs processed through MAFES and MSU-ES will be assessed a 5% administration fee by the respective Director's office. Units (Departments, R&E Centers, Centers and Institutes) may assess an additional 10% administrative fee for a maximum total administrative cost of up to 15%.
3. GMOA support should be accompanied by a letter from the sponsor stating the unrestricted nature of the support.

Mississippi State University
Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station (MAFES)
Forest and Wildlife Research Center (FWRC)
Mississippi State University Extension Service (MSU-ES)
Standard Operating Procedure for General Memoranda of Agreement (GMOA)

Purpose: This operating procedure describes the conditions for which General Memoranda of Agreement (GMOA) are an appropriate contractual instrument for sponsored activities within MAFES/FWRC/MSU-ES and defines the approval and routing process for execution of GMOAs.

Background: General Memorandums of Agreement (GMOAs) are used to facilitate unrestricted support of research/extension activities associated with a specific department, commodity, program, or principal investigator. GMOAs are an appropriate contractual vehicle when the following conditions are met:

1. The sponsor acknowledges that the funds are provided for unrestricted, "generic" support of a particular research/extension program,
2. The sponsor requires/provides no specific scope of work or protocol to be implemented in the research/extension activity,
3. The sponsor expects/requires no specific deliverables associated with the research/extension activities,
4. The total amount of the support is less than or equal to \$50,000.
5. Agreements not meeting these criteria may be more appropriately processed as a Specific Memorandum of Agreement (SMOA).

The general departmental fund records all transactions identified by activity (CRIS) code. In addition, the departmental business office maintains a separate record for each Principal Investigator (PI). GMOAs processed through MAFES, FWRC, and Extension will be assessed a 5% administrative fee by the respective Director's office. The Department may assess an additional 10% administrative fee for a maximum total administrative cost of up to 15%.

The PI will complete the GMOA form, which can be found on the MAFES website, www.mafes.msstate.edu under Faculty/Staff Resources. The PI will get his/her Department Head signature and then forward the GMOA on to MAFES, FWRC, or Extension Administration for signature. If the PI has already received the check, then the check should be forwarded with the GMOA. The PI should also have a letter from the Sponsor stating the gift is "unrestricted."

If a check is received, it must be deposited within a timely manner. According to SOP 62.07, **do not hold checks for future processing.** Most checks have an expiration date, so please be mindful of that. If the check is deposited by the Department or R&E center, be sure to make a photocopy of the check before depositing. If a PI receives a check and has not received the letter from the sponsor stating the gift is unrestricted, please go ahead and request a letter stating the unrestricted nature of the research support and send the GMOA and check on to MAFES/MSU-ES administration, so it can be deposited. We can hold the GMOA in MAFES, FWRC, or Extension, but the check should not be held.

Once MAFES, FWRC, or Extension Administration receives the GMOA, we will have it signed by the Director and then forward it on to Sponsored Programs Administration for signature. Once it has been signed by Sponsored Programs Administration, it will be returned to MAFES, FWRC or Extension for further processing.

Once we receive it back from Sponsored Programs Administration, we will send a letter and the signed GMOA to the Sponsor requesting their signature. If we have already received the check, the letter will acknowledge receipt of their check. If we have not received the check, the letter will be requesting the check.

GMOA's being processed through MAFES/FWRC should be sent to Katie Sisk, k.sisk@msstate.edu, or Box 9740, Ms. State, MS 39762

GMOA's being processed through Extension Service should be sent to Vicki Vaughn, v.vaughn@msstate.edu or Box 9601, Ms. State, MS 39762.

**** NO deposits should be put into the Departmental GMOA account without a GMOA form being processed.****

**** NO faculty or staff of the department can invoice a sponsor for a GMOA.****



Approved

George M. Hopper
Director, Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station
Director, Forest and Wildlife Research Center

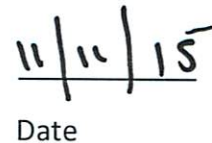


Date



Approved

Gary Jackson
Director, Mississippi State University Extension Service



Date

APPENDICES

The following GMOA template has been approved for use by Sponsored Programs Administration and General Counsel. Any changes to the provided language will require approval by SPA and General Counsel.

- GMOA Template - <http://www.mafes.msstate.edu/faculty-staff/pdf/generalmoas.pdf>
- GMOA Memo from Directors – need link.