

**Subject:**

FW: University Coordinating Commission: Research Council Response Needed for UCC 0184 11S and UCC 0185 11S (Travel MAPPs)

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-----Original Message-----

From: litvinov@mail.uh.edu [mailto:litvinov@mail.uh.edu] On Behalf Of Dmitri Litvinov  
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2011 5:43 PM  
To: Morales, Jeanette F  
Cc: Sherman, Anne  
Subject: Re: University Coordinating Commission: Research Council Response Needed for UCC 0184 11S and UCC 0185 11S (Travel MAPPs)

Jeanette,

I have discussed the proposed policies with several research council members as well as other researchers. Here is the summary:

There proposed revisions include a number of restrictions that are not in line with the rules imposed by our sponsors. Such restrictions would impose additional hardships on the research faculty and should not be added to the travel policy unless dictated by Texas regulations. The faculty believe that there needs to be a separate travel policy for traveling on sponsor grants (federal, gift-grants) that will be in line with sponsor regulations. Also, these policies should not be absolute and allow for reasonable exceptions per administration approvals.

\* Section VIIIb: Those of use who fly international need to be able to upgrade to business/first class (often it is additional \$200-500 on a \$2k ticket). On extended flights (like to Asia), this enables on-flight productivity and reduced stress from a major jet-lag. For many of my colleagues and myself, this would be a difference between not been able to function for a week at all (two full days round-trip and 2-3 days to recover) or remaining fully productive all this time.

\* Section IXe.3: Requirement of itemization (instead of per diem) will significantly increase the paperwork burden on faculty and DBAs.

\* Section IXe.2: Setting a somewhat arbitrary limit on per diem would make it impossible to attend some of the sponsor meetings and conferences. At certain times, in places like New York or DC it is difficult to find a reasonably priced place to stay. The sponsors often enough organize reviews in fairly expensive locations where the per diem would easily exceed the proposed limitation yet not attending is not an option. Following IRS per diem guidelines seems like a more reasonable option.

\* Section VIc: examples of exceptions need to be provided. for example, Fly America does not apply to trips originating abroad.

\* Section IXa: the purchase of the tickets and the actual trip could be separated by e.g. two months. It is unreasonable to expect a faculty member to finance the trip for extended period of time. More than one reimbursement should be allowed.

Best,  
Dmitri

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