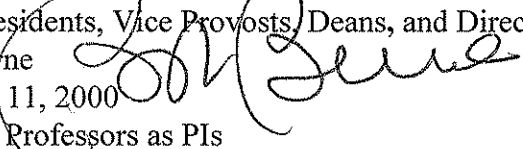




New York University
A private university in the public service

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TO: Vice Presidents, Vice Provosts, Deans, and Directors
FROM: Bob Berne 
Date: October 11, 2000
Re: Clinical Professors as PIs

University policy currently requires that the person who has primary responsibility for the conduct of a sponsored research or training project, the Principal Investigator, be limited to persons holding full-time tenure or tenure-track faculty appointments in a given school or college.

With the increase in the number of faculty with the title "Clinical Professor", this policy now needs some revision. According to the Faculty Handbook (see pp. 48-50), a clinical professor is a non-tenured appointee whose term has a specific start and end date and whose professional attainments are comparable to those required for the regular professorial grades, but whose teaching service is part-time or whose qualifications are fundamentally distinguishable from those of appointees in the tenure-earning ranks.

There would appear to be good reason for Clinical Professors to be granted PI status on training grants without any review process. However, for research or evaluation grants which usually involve significant commitments of the University's facilities, a process is needed to ensure that the individual has appropriate qualifications to serve as a PI.

We already have a well-established process in place for granting PI status to Research Scientists which could serve as well for Clinical Professors: the Department makes a recommendation to the Dean who in turn recommends the appointment to my office. In consultation with the Office of Sponsored Programs and the Office of Academic Appointments, when appropriate, my office reviews and acts on the appointment. The recommendations which are accompanied by the individual's CV, need to address the following issues: stature of the person; relationship to NYU and the likelihood of its continuing; involvement of graduate and postdoctoral students; congruency of the research with the department's interests; who could take responsibility for the project in the event of noncompliance by the individual; discussion of the need for departmental resources, including space.

There are a few Clinical Professors who are currently serving as PIs on research and/or evaluation projects who will be grandfathered into this policy. Attached is a list of such individuals for your school.

cc: Marti Dunne
Jo Seelmann