Definition of Sponsored Project

A “sponsored project” is an exchange transaction between the University of South Alabama and a sponsor. A University-based project receiving either direct or indirect external support from any federal, state, local or other governmental entity shall be classified as a “sponsored project.” Other potential sponsors are private business and industry, not-for-profit organizations, and other educational institutions. The type of agreement may be a grant, contract, cooperative agreement, consulting agreement or other exchange transaction.

A University “sponsored project” is not a purchase or sale of goods but instead is a mutual exchange involving the University and a sponsor. Sponsors may provide funding, equipment or other tangible items, such as goods or services, for research, training, education programs, analytical services or other rights or goods. A gift from a donor with no expectation of a return on investment is not a “sponsored project.”

In some instances, a sponsored project agreement may contain conditions such as those listed below. In these instances, SPA will generally need to negotiate with the sponsor for modifications.

A. Requirement to produce specific goods, services, or other deliverables;
B. Performance milestones;
C. The support is used for research-related patient care services, including routine cost of care delivered as part of the research project;
D. Testing or assessment of the sponsor’s products or services or conducting research that is otherwise likely to have a significant effect on the sponsor’s business; or
E. The support is from industry for research or clinical trials relating to the donor’s products or immediate business.
F. Transfer of intellectual property, ownership, or related rights;
G. Insurance, indemnification, or warranty or any other contractual term or condition that establishes financial or legal responsibilities and/or the acceptance of risk by the University;
H. Restrictions on publication of research results;
I. Withholding or refunding of the support if the project fails to meet performance requirements or project objectives, including certain research outcomes;

The Office of Sponsored Projects Administration reviews and processes “sponsored projects.” Those projects which meet the conditions listed should follow all processes found at http://www.southalabama.edu/departments/research/spa/project-management/proposal-routing.html