



PennState

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November 9, 2016

Evlondo Cooper
Senior Fellow
Checks and Balances Project

Dear Mr. Cooper:

As the Vice President for Research, I am responding to the letter you sent to Provost Jones on October 7, 2016. As Pennsylvania's land-grant institution, and a top research university, Penn State partners with not only the US government and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, but industry as well. Our partnerships with industry are essential to living our land grant mission – to improve the well-being and health of individuals and communities through integrated research and educational programs. Penn State supports a rigorous program of faculty and student research by enhancing the environment for scholarly endeavors, encouraging the highest standards of quality, and fostering ethical conduct in research. Penn State's broad array of research and educational collaborations, including those with industry, increases student engagement and success, fuels innovation drives economic development, and impacts society locally, nationally, and beyond.

Our School of Hospitality Management is a highly ranked school with a history of excellence. Of note is the fact that this is not a new academic program. The hospitality management program at Penn State began formally in 1937 and has evolved into one of the most highly regarded hospitality management programs in the nation. The School employs approximately 25 faculty who currently serve more than 700 undergraduate and graduate students.

Our review of research activity within the School of Hospitality Management over the past five years indicates a level of funding of approximately \$4.0 million from external sponsors, which includes federal, state, industry and foundation support. Of that \$4.0 million in external funding, \$1.5 million was provided by industry partners, with \$288 thousand of that provided by the hotel industry specifically. You can find Penn State's annual research activity report at <https://www.research.psu.edu/OVPR>.

As discussed above, Penn State is committed to research integrity. We have many policies, guidelines and procedures to support and promote professional integrity and the ethical conduct of research irrespective of the origin of financial support. For example, the University has policies related to academic freedom: Policy HR64, Academic Freedom (<https://guru.psu.edu/policies/OHR/hr64.html>); conflicts of interest: Policy RP06, Disclosure and Management of Significant Financial Interests (<http://guru.psu.edu/policies/RP06.html>) and Policy AD83, Institutional Financial Conflict of Interest (<http://guru.psu.edu/policies/AD83.html>); and private consulting: Policy HR80, Private Consulting Practice (<https://guru.psu.edu/policies/OHR/hr80.html>). All university personnel are responsible for research disclosures as defined in the policies. Please feel free to read these policies in their entirety using the links provided, as the details found within should answer your remaining related questions.

Thank you for your interest in Penn State research and our policies.

Sincerely,

Neil Sharkey