**Proposal Guidance Regarding Fundamental Research at CMU**

**Introduction**

Fundamental research is unrestricted basic and applied research conducted by CMU faculty, students, and staff where the resulting information is broadly shared within the scientific community. Fundamental research is a central component of the sponsored projects enterprise at CMU. As such, it is vitally important that individual fundamental research projects are clearly delineated by appropriate language in proposals going to outside agencies. Such proactive steps help to protect CMU’s fundamental research exclusion (FRE) under federal law. This need for clear language exists regardless of the resulting funding instrument (grant, contract, or cooperative agreement). In addition, it is highly recommended that all proposals contain a watermark, header, or footer with the designation “Fundamental Research.” By including fundamental research language in proposals that are submitted to outside sponsors, CMU puts the sponsor on notice of its intent and hopefully minimizes issues related to export controls and publication restriction, among others. It is highly recommended that such language be inserted at the beginning and ending of the proposal. *This guidance is designed to provide faculty and staff with sample language that can be easily inserted into fundamental research proposals.*

**Sample Language for Sponsored Project Proposals**

**Alternative I**

As a global research university, Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) policy requires openness in research where research participation is unrestricted and the research results are published or shared broadly among the scientific community, commonly known as ‘fundamental research.’ **The scope of work in this proposal is considered to be fundamental research.** As a result, CMU hereby asserts the benefits and protections associated with fundamental research, including the unrestricted right to participate in, or publish results from such research.

**Alternative II**

Openness in research and the ability to share and publish research results is a fundamental and critical component of Carnegie Mellon University’s (CMU) role as a global research university. **The work outlined in this proposal is considered to be fundamental research**, and CMU asserts the benefits and protections associated with fundamental research, including the unrestricted right to publish and unrestricted participation.

**Alternative III**

**The work proposed herein is expected to be performed as fundamental research.** As a result, and consistent with its openness in research policy and role as a global research university, Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) hereby asserts the benefits and protections associated with fundamental research, including the unrestricted right to publish and allow unrestricted participation.