SUMMARY

Harvard welcomes philanthropic gifts from corporations. Gifts from corporate donors are guided by the same fundamental policies and philosophies that apply to individuals and other donor types, as summarized in the University Gift Policy. This document highlights additional considerations for corporate gifts, with special attention to named gifts.

**Please note that this document guides the acceptance of philanthropic gifts. Sponsored research arrangements are coordinated through the Office of Sponsored Research under their policies.**

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Types of Gifts Considered for Corporate naming:

- Professorships
- Graduate Fellowships
- Post-doctoral fellowships
- Undergraduate Research Fellows
- Undergraduate Financial Aid
- Faculty Research Funds
- Interior physical space located within an existing academic or administrative structure*

*Residential and student service space will not be considered. In rare cases and with explicit approval from the Gift Policy Committee (who may consult with the Corporation), the University may make exceptions to recognize corporate donors by naming buildings, academic programs, centers institutes, schools, departments or programs.

Gifts from corporations **SHOULD:**

- Maintain broad latitude in how and when the University and its agents use funds.
- Remain irrevocably with the University, even if faculty members leave or financial needs change.
- Adhere to the University Gift Policy, including policies on indirect and administrative costs (endowed and current-use gift assessments.)

Gifts from corporations **SHOULD NOT:**

- Constrain Harvard’s academic freedom.
- Constrain Harvard’s ownership of intellectual property rights.
- Create a conflict of interest in which the University could be influenced by the funder, or where the perception of influence may be created.
- Create expectations for research deliverables, including influence on research outcomes or early access to findings. This includes the expectation of consulting or partnership.
- Create the appearance of endorsement by the University.
- Limit Harvard’s use of vendors.

STEWARDSHIP AND RECOGNITION (INCLUDING USE OF NAME)

Aside from goodwill generated from positive publicity of a gift, a donor cannot expect to receive any goods or services in return for a philanthropic gift.

**Reporting.** Appropriate stewardship of corporate gifts includes general reports on progress, without specific requirements or guidelines for reporting; and general reports on the disposition of funds, without line-item reconciliation. Donors are not entitled to research deliverables, early access to findings, or pre-publication review.

**Publicity and Press.** All external publicity must be coordinated through Harvard Public Affairs & Communications or a Schools’ communications office.
Use of Name. Harvard retains sole authority over the use of its names and trademarks. The Trademark Office must be consulted on any use of Harvard’s name or logo by a third party. Names of funds may not bear the name of a third party in conjunction with (hyphenated for example) Harvard.

Named Recognition. All gifts with named recognition of a donor (the “ABC Corp” Professorship, or the “ABC Corp” Fund for Research”) must be reviewed by the Gift Policy Committee. The Corporation may be consulted on the appropriateness of highly visible named gifts (e.g. buildings and academic programs.)

REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Currently, the Gift Policy Committee must review and approve all gifts from corporations that a) are $1 million or more; OR b) include named recognition; OR c) contain gift policy issues such as conflict of interest or reputational risk.

Examples of conflicts of interest or reputational risk include business interests that are tied to the outcome of gift funding, new donors to the university, and projects that may attract inordinate public attention.

All gift terms, including for corporate gifts, must be accepted by Alumni and Development Services (formerly the Recording Secretary’s Office). Faculty cannot accept gifts on behalf of the university.

Alumni and Development Services determines if a gift requires review by the Gift Policy Committee.

RESOURCES

Faculty involved in corporate gift conversations are strongly encouraged to contact their school development office or the Corporate and Foundation Office in OVPR to ensure that safeguards are in place before entering into any gift agreement.

Please contact your school development office or Jennifer Chow, Director of Foundation and Corporate Development, if you have any questions. Jennifer_Chow@harvard.edu; (617) 496-2170.