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Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Invitation to Symposium on Research Management and the Right to Know
Date: Thursday, November 12, 2015 11:56:00 AM
Attachments: [Symposium on RTK.docx](#)

The JSGS is hosting a brief symposium on the challenges to research management in the face of the right to know movement. Recent controversies involving academic involvement with industry in the US and Canada (involving GMOs and energy policy) have generated considerable concern about how university researchers can effectively and efficiently deliver on their research and outreach efforts. The focusing event is the visit of Drs. Folta and Entine, principals in the US controversy about GMOs.

We are inviting a cross section of the research community – research funders, research managers and research communicators – [REDACTED]

If you are unable to attend, we would welcome a designate. We hope to produce a policy brief following the event to advance the discussion and planning for more effective research partnerships.

I am attaching a formal invitation with the details of the invitees, agenda and a brief background.

When: December 2, 2105, 3 p.m.-5 p.m.,
Where: Prairie Room, Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, Diefenbaker Centre, Saskatoon

Pls RSVP to [REDACTED].

I look forward to meeting with you on the second.

Peter W.B. Phillips, Ph.D.

Distinguished Professor and Graduate Chair, Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy
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Symposium on Research Management and the Right to Know

December 2, 2105, 3 p.m.-5 p.m.
Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy

Invitees:

[Redacted content]

AGENDA

1. Quick roundtable introductions (All)
2. Brief presentation on the purpose of the event (Phillips)
3. Brief opening comments on the RTK movement in the US (Entine and Folta)
4. Roundtable discussion drawing out (All)
 - a. strategies for designing more effective research contracts and partnerships
5. Conclusions (Phillips)

BACKGROUND

Most national and international research funding organizations now require researchers to (a) leverage external research capital, optimally from user communities, and (b) translate and disseminate their research findings to interested users. In both cases, this has paired academic researchers more closely with industry, government and NGO funders and research users.

In 2015 two controversies erupted in North America about the relationships that have emerged in the context of this new research imperative:

1. US Right to Know (USRTK), a not-for-profit corporation founded in 2012 by Gary Ruskin, campaign manager for Prop 13, the California Right to Know statewide ballot initiative calling for labelling of genetically engineered foods, is using FOI rules to investigate relationships. They petitioned public universities, and private universities engaged in research funded by public programs, to disclose all the correspondence and some work in progress to determine the nature and extent of the academic engagement with private industry. On 5 Sept 2015, a front page story in the NYT ¹ alleged 8 public university scientists and scholars had inappropriately engaged with Monsanto. Entine, Folta and Phillips were cited in that article and in follow-up pieces.² Many US academics report their emails are being petitioned for their emails and many have signalled they are changing their research communications channels.
2. On 3 November 2015, CBC reported on a relationship between Enbridge and the Haskayne School of Business that they asserted was “too cosy.”³ This \$2.25M, 10-year relationship deteriorated before the story broke but the aftermath caused significant public controversy for the current and former dean and the president.

¹ http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/06/us/food-industry-enlisted-academics-in-gmo-lobbying-war-emails-show.html?_r=1

² <http://www.thestarphoenix.com/technology/Group+questions+prof+Monsanto+link/11411497/story.html>

³ <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/university-calgary-enbridge-sponsorship-1.3286369>