

# October 2023 Research Administration Forum Q&A

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## Research Policy and Compliance

**Q1: There are [data sharing instructions](#) from TDG/UC Health on the TDG website. These instructions confuse a lot of our investigators. Will the instructions from TDG/UC Health be removed and replaced with your new guidance?**

A1: The guidance you have cited refers specifically to Material Transfer and Data Use Agreements. These are generally used when UCLA has an interest in protecting materials and/or data to be shared, limiting its use to certain purposes, and/or defining UCLA's interests. This would be a small component of an overall research data policy.

**Q2: Does the research data policy apply to non-employees performing research at UCLA?**

A2: I assume the question is about whether data generated or created by students (who are not concurrently employed) belongs to the Regents.

If a student is participating in the design, conduct, or reporting of a Principal Investigator's research, then any research data arising from that work is owned by the Regents. In addition, if the student received gift, grant, contract funding from or through the University for the work or utilized special resources, then research data may also be owned by the Regents. The Policy also indicates, however that, PIs must retain data that if a student is participating in university research, the research data connected to that research must be retained until the student has been awarded a degree, is no longer working on the project or is not enrolled in the University. If, however, a student is solely performing research as a part of their coursework or conducting independent scholarship activities, then research data is not owned by the Regents. Such research Data is the property of the student.

## Extramural Fund Management

**Q1: What is the Go Live date?**

A1: November 13, 2023. and you can find more information on the [CRU website](#).

**Q2: What if we have direct retros between November 3 and the go live date?**

A2: Campus should not submit funding entries and direct retros between 11/4/23 and 11/12/23.

In preparation for the change, location transactors must approve or deny any pending direct retro and funding transactions by November 3, 2023. UCPATH will cancel pending direct retros and funding entries and notify transactors of the canceled transactions.

**Q3: Has the CRU sent out the invitation for the webinar yet? I want to make sure I don't miss their demo of the new changes.**

A3: Invitation has not been sent. Next week CRU will share the registration link for their UCPATH Illuminated webinar.

**Q4: Can the university put a time limit on UCPATH Mass Corrections that hit very old, already closed C&G awards? Re-opening awards that have already been closed because some mass correction was applied way after the fact and resulted in a tiny dollar amount change is such a waste of everyone's time and makes UCLA look incompetent to sponsors. So many wasted man hours!!**

A4: UCPATH has completed all key mass corrections in the prior fiscal years and there should not be any mass correction happening now. If there is mass correction you are aware of, can you please let me know? I would appreciate you bringing it to my attention and I will look into it.

**Q5: Did you say October 21st, or October 2021?**

A5: October 2021

**Q6: Why can't we simplify Cost Transfers (i.e., Direct Retros) so they are done the same way as funding entries, where we only need to enter the %efforts (or total dollars) for each fund, and the earn code/fund combos are allocated automatically?**

A6: Feedback will be shared with UCPATH

**Q7: Will we still use the MCOP Worksheet?**

A7: MCOP Worksheet will no longer be needed for transactions processed using the SCT Tool

**Q8: What is the cut-off time for DRs on 11/3?**

A8: EFM has not received the exact cut-off time and is waiting to hear more updates from CRU. We anticipate that CRU will release more detail updates as we get closer to the go-live. The latest CRU update on the new SCT is available on the [CRU website](#).

**Q9: The current retro does not allow you to process retros on the same check date even if the check had multiple position numbers. We basically have to wait until one position is approved in order to do the next one. Will the new system allow us to do multiple retros with multiple positions under the same paycheck?**

A9: Process will remain the same with SCT Tool. Initiator will need to wait for SCT to be processed before initiating additional SCT for the same paycheck.

**Q10: What if we have direct retros between November 3 and the go live date?**

A10: The scenario will be shared with CRU to see if any additional guidance or clarification can be provided.

## Ascend 2.0

**Q1: Once A2 is up and running down the road, is there a central place to seek help? Hopefully, it is not similar to CRU when PATH arrived.**

A1: The Ascend 2.0 Program acknowledges the need for centralized support capabilities in support of the Ascend 2.0 release, which will include service sites, training, end-user support, and consultations. The Ascend 2.0 dedicated support email will be announced in the months leading up to the launch of Bruin Finance (Oracle Financials Cloud), which is scheduled for December 2024. Until that time, please use our existing communications channels to stay up to date on important Ascend 2.0 updates, including the [Ascend 2.0 website](#) and the [Ascend 2.0 newsletter](#) (email [ascend2@ucla.edu](mailto:ascend2@ucla.edu) to subscribe).

**Q2: Will the transition to ASCEND have any impacts, positive or negative, to the functionality, ease of use, of the PI Portal?**

A2: The PI Portal will be retrofitted to ensure its compatibility with Bruin Finance (Oracle Financials Cloud). Additionally, the Ascend 2.0 Financial Reporting & Business Analytics team is working with PI data as part of their development of the future Financial Report Suite. Research leaders involved in Ascend 2.0 are in the process of establishing a Researcher Focus Group, in which select PIs from a variety of departments will meet on an as-needed basis to share feedback with members of Ascend 2.0 Research leadership and ask questions. One of the aims of this new group will be to discuss potential ways to enhance the PI Portal with a streamlined PI-specific dashboard.

**Q3: Will A2 have any functionality for complex C&G expense reporting? In other words, if we have a sponsor who wants us to report on very specific line item expenses, will we be able to run reports that meet those needs instead of creating shadow ledgers internally (at the dept level) to get that level of granularity?**

A3: Oracle's reporting capabilities are driven by the Expenditure Categories and Expenditure Types which are set up as part of configuration. These segments are similar to Sub Code and Object Code in the current state. For complex reporting based on sponsor budget line items which either differ, or are more granular, than Expenditure Types, Departments will need to continue to maintain this level of detail as they do today.