

University Policy 1010: Contract Signature Authority and Delegation

Category: Governance & Administration

Subcategory: N/A

Covered Individuals: All Employees

Responsible Executive: Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services

Policy Custodian: Controller's Office, Controller

Last Revised: 2025/11/07

Previous USU Policy Number: 528, 5003

1010.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

To establish policy regarding signature authority, and the delegation of signature authority, with respect to contracts that bind the University to any legal obligation. This policy is established to minimize financial, legal, and related risks and to ensure that appropriate fiscal and management controls are in place for the benefit of the entire institution.

1010.2 POLICY

Unless otherwise delegated, contracts may only be signed by the following authorized signers:

Authorized Signer	Origin of Authority	Scope
President of the University	State statute 53H via Utah Board of Higher Education	All documents
Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services	Resolution of the Board of Trustees & USU Policy 1000C	All documents
Associate Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services & Controller	Resolution of the Board of Trustees	All documents
Vice President for Research	USU Policy 1000C	Grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements related to sponsored research

2.1 Delegation

In limited circumstances, the Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services may delegate signature authority for contracts approved in form and substance where the agreement is repetitive in nature and the document is highly standardized. The delegation of signature authority will be issued in the form of a letter. Any contract signed by an individual with delegated signature authority shall have the same force and effect as if the Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services signed the contract.

As granted in Policy 1000C, the Vice President for Research may delegate signature authority to staff for contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements related to sponsored research. The Vice President for Research will provide a copy of written delegation of authority to be kept on file in the Office of the Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services.

As of the original effective date of this policy, all previous delegations of signature authority are superseded and rendered void. All future delegations of signature authority will be rendered void if a delegate changes employment position, is on extended leave, terminates employment, or has a similar event wherein the intent and purpose of delegation is rendered obsolete.

The University President, Vice President for Research, or the Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services may revoke delegation of signature authority at their discretion.

All delegations of signature authority will be reviewed on a regular basis.

Employees who sign contracts without properly delegated authority may be at risk of legal action and may be subject to University disciplinary action.

2.2 Routing

Contract Type	Routing
Contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements related to sponsored research	Sponsored Programs Office
All other Contracts	Purchasing and Contract Services

1010.3 DEFINITIONS

- Contract.** A written agreement or other formal instrument where there is mutual agreement to terms that bind the University to any legal obligation. Typically, at least one party to the transaction is external to the University. A contract may be in the form of an agreement, proposal, statement, notice, resolution, letter, memorandum of understanding (MOU), memorandum of agreement (MOA), purchase order, license, indenture, grant, cooperative agreement, etc. In addition, such documents may go by other names as well.

Information below is not included as part of the contents of the official policy. It is provided only as a convenience for readers/users and may be changed at any time by persons authorized by the president.

POLICY HISTORY

Original issue date: 2014/07/01

Last revision date: 2025/11/07

Next scheduled review date: 2026/12/01

Previous revision dates: 2022/06/04