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National Association of College & University Business Officers

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October 25, 1978

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Dr. Richard C. Atkinson
Director
National Science Foundation
1800 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20545

**Reference: Restrictions on Copyrighted Publications
Resulting from NSF Supported Activities**

Dear Dr. Atkinson:

It has come to our attention that the National Science Foundation has recently made an award to one of our member institutions which contains the following provision:

"Any reports, publications, or other data generated as a result of the activities supported by this grant will be publicly disseminated, with an acknowledgement of NSF support, and may not be copyrighted without the specific written approval of the Grants Officer. This is not intended to preclude the publishing of articles in copyrighted scientific or professional journals. No previously copyrighted material may be included in any such reports without written permission of the copyright owner."

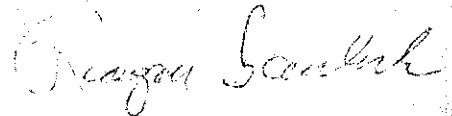
We are particularly concerned since virtually every opportunity for publication available to our faculties is in a copyrighted publication which in some cases, may not be a scientific or professional journal. Thus, we do not understand why the Foundation is distinguishing between scientific and professional journals, and other publications, with respect to the requirement that grant officer approval be obtained prior to copyright or, as we understand it, publication in a copyrighted work.

Also, this requirement seems to be open-ended in as much as no time limit is expressed. Does the Foundation intend that, notwithstanding when or how much NSF support was received, that approval nevertheless be obtained?

Dr. Atkinson
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We ask that you consider the copyright approval requirement in light of the above concerns and advise us of the underlying rationale so that we may respond to our constituent institutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Reagan Scurlock".

Reagan Scurlock

cc: Clark A. McCartney
Joseph S. Warner