

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF LEATHER TECHNOLOGISTS AND CHEMISTS SOCIETIES

Actions & Decision flow:

- Researcher submits a document providing a title (can be specific or general) and some information regarding desired project secrecy / collaboration / openness.
- This proposal form is then reviewed by the IUR Certification Panel and a response is returned to the researcher, either with notice accepting the project, suggested changes, or rejecting the project. The proposal needs to conform to IUR Research Platforms.
- o If it is not accepted, the researcher can re-submit a proposal with changes suggested by the IUR Commission.
- o If accepted, the researcher then submits a detailed research plan according to the submission forms. NOW: If the project is accepted <u>and</u> is not secret the full IUR commission reviews the submitted document in "open review". If the project is accepted but there is a desire for secrecy i.e. concern for Intellectual property issues, scared of idea being stolen, etc. then the submitted document is submitted for confidential or "secret review".
- A "Secret Review" will consist of a panel of a few (say 3) IUR commission members who are competent, knowledgeable individuals, but who have no organization affiliations (e.g. retired). These individuals MUST sign a legal document (Non-Disclosure Agreement) that ensures they do not divulge any relevant information regarding the project – they will only state whether it meets IUR standards and is accepted or rejected.
- If accepted, ("open" or "secret") then the Researcher gets an official IULTCS / IUR Certificate of Project approval. This certificate will provide the researcher with a better chance to obtain project funding.

COMMENTS on "Added Value" that the IUR Commission may provide to industry and to the researcher using this scheme:

- 1. Potential to evaluate all projects, including competitive / secret research
- 2. Assures projects are in line with industry needs (research platforms)
- 3. Possible input by commission to improve on ideas, steer the research, reference the researcher to other people, organizations or published work that might be useful.
- 4. Possibly suggest partners for collaboration individuals, organizations, etc. e.g. organizations that provide access to equipment, specific companies with particular competencies that might be interested to help, etc.
- 5. Provide protection to researcher via option of "secret review". This could be because of intellectual property, uniqueness of idea, etc. The level of "secrecy" can be controlled by the researcher submitting the idea.
- 6. Issue of a certificate that will assist researchers in accessing funding or grants for research.
- 7. Publicity of project on IULTCS website allows global industry access to information on who is doing what. This will facilitate collaboration and reduce duplication.
- 8. Input demands / time on IUR commission members should be manageable.



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9. Follow project certification and start of work, a researcher has the option to contact the IUR for further suggestions on improvements, overcoming hurdles, ideas on possible networking partners, etc.

NOTE: The IUR will <u>not manage</u> projects or collaboration networks. Projects and collaboration should be managed independently by those individuals / organizations involved in running or funding of projects. The option of "secret review" overcomes intellectual property or secrecy requirements and allows input on all projects that seek IUR certification.