

CNI EQUIPMENT DONATION GUIDELINES

These equipment donation guidelines are designed to help incentivize faculty to donate and/or participate in funding equipment to CNI. The guidelines will be reviewed annually by the CNI co-directors and faculty advisory committee, and updated as needed. Questions about the guidelines can be sent to the following email address: ceni@usc.edu. Future revisions can be found on the CNI webpage: <http://cni.usc.edu/>.

Credit hours for use in CNI provide a fair and convenient means to incentivize/reward faculty for equipment/cash donations. The amount of credit should scale with the value of the donation. Granting credit for CNI usage also avoids the issues that “unlimited” access on an instrument can produce, such as no recharge collected. A credit of hours on an instrument is readily recognized and appreciated by PI’s and is convenient to implement within CNI. Credit is flexible, and can be applied to multiple instruments, independent of hourly recharge rates. However, we recognize that robust guidelines cannot be “one size fits all”, and donations of different types require different incentives/rewards. We consider different types below.

Cases:

- 1) A faculty member contributes to the purchase of new equipment. Reward structure is tiered.
 - a. 50% compensation (as credit hours) for contributions less than \$10k.
 - b. 50% compensation for contributions greater than \$10k from tenured faculty member.
 - i. Example: A \$120k piece of equipment is purchased with \$100k of funds from one account and \$20k of funds from a PI’s account. The PI will receive a \$10k credit.
 - ii. To prevent the scenario where credit eliminates all revenue from a donor/user, credit usage will be capped at 50% of the recharge (hourly rate).
 - c. 75% compensation for contributions greater than \$10k from junior (non-tenured) faculty member. (Because junior faculty have a limited amount of precious startup funds they should be fully compensated for their contributions.)
 - i. Example: A \$120k instrument is purchased with \$100k of funds from one account and \$20k of funds from the PI’s account. The PI will receive \$15k credit.
 - ii. To prevent the scenario where only credits pay recharge on an instrument, a limit that caps recharge to only allow 50% credit recharge will be in place.
- 2) A faculty member donates used equipment.
 - a. Used equipment dealt with on a case-by-case basis. 50% compensation of the current value of the equipment will be the baseline. Current value TBD by CNI board/staff.
 - i. Example: a polishing wheel will likely require less maintenance than an ion mill, and thus the compensation should be proportioned accordingly. A polishing wheel should be more fully compensated than the ion mill because CNI will have to spend more time repairing it.
 - ii. Example: equipment valued at \$12k is donated. A \$6k credit at CNI is available.

Note that credit in the form of discounted hourly rates granted will be distributed over 3 years in equal amounts, after which the credit will expire.