POLICY ON ACCEPTING FUNDING FROM EXTERNAL PARTNERS FOR THE
UCL ENERGY INSTITUTE/UCL INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES (UCL ISR)

TADJ ORESZCZYN, Director, UCL Energy Institute
PAUL EKINS, Director, UCL ISR

This is a joint policy document for the UCL Energy Institute (UCL Energy) and UCL ISR concerning the criteria against which both institutes will accept money from and engage with businesses and other external partners.

Both UCL Energy and UCL ISR are likely to receive significant external funding in the future. In the case of UCL ISR, this was set up in 2011 with a substantial donation from BHP Billiton Sustainable Communities, a charity established by the mining company BHP Billiton as part of its community investment programme, which has a target to commit 1% of pre-tax profit (three year rolling average) to community programs in markets where it operates. BHP Billiton Sustainable Communities has provided UCL with US$10 million (US$5 million each to UCL ISR and the International Energy Policy Institute (IEPI) in UCL Australia in Adelaide) over a five-year period to fund academic research, fellowships and scholarships, as well as the appointment of a Chair in Sustainable Global Resources. The use of the funding is at the sole discretion of UCL ISR/IEPI, which can pursue any area of research and are free to publish the results of any research projects that are undertaken. In addition, UCL ISR is planning to establish a Business Engagement Group consisting of a number of corporatons with expertise and experience in the extraction, processing, use, and recycling of resources. UCL Energy has also received a number of approaches from companies and other external organisations for consultancy or other work.

Therefore UCL Energy and UCL ISR (the Institutes) have set out principles for engagement with external partners, or for accepting funding from them. A set of such principles follows, which have been consulted on with the Management Advisory Group of the Institutes.

1. The Institutes will only engage with external partners which UCL centrally considers appropriate for such engagement. In pursuance of this principle, and where the sums of money involved exceed £10,000, the Institutes will notify the Office of Vice-Provost Enterprise (OVPE), and the UCL Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARO), of the potential external partners with which it proposes to engage before it accepts funding from, or makes proposals for engagement to, these potential external partners.

2. The Institutes will only accept funding from, or enter into engagement with, external partners, that, in the judgement of the Institutes’ Directors, will not damage the reputation of either institute.

3. The Institutes will only do work with and for external partners that, in the judgement of their Directors, is consistent with their aim “to accelerate the transition to a globally sustainable energy system” (UCL Energy) or the UCL ISR’s Vision of “a world of globally sustainable resource use”.

4. Any conclusions and recommendations arising from the work of the Institutes with and for external partners will not be influenced by the business interests of the external partners concerned, but will be based on and derived from the evidence available to, and the independent judgement of, the Institutes’ researcher(s) concerned.
5. The default position of the Institutes is that all its work should be published and made publically available. However, they recognise that, as with some research it undertakes for, and advice it gives to, government, some information it may receive from external partners is, and should remain, confidential. In such cases, and provided the need for such confidentiality is made clear and accepted by all parties before the start of the research, the Institutes will respect the confidentiality of the information and the recommendations and conclusions arising from it, unless, in the opinion of the researcher(s) involved and the Institutes’ Directors, the public interest would be seriously compromised by such confidentiality. In such cases, the Institutes will give the external partner(s) concerned a minimum of one month’s notice of their intention to publish the results of their research.

TADJ ORESZCYN
Director, UCL Energy

PAUL EKINS
Director, UCL ISR

October 31st 2013