



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### **What is the Fund for Academic Renewal?**

The Fund for Academic Renewal is a program of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA), an independent nonprofit organization based in Washington, DC. FAR's mission is to serve donors who want to restore the promise of higher education.

### **How can FAR assist me?**

If you want to protect the intent of your gift, maximize the impact of your philanthropy, and create positive change at our nation's colleges and universities, FAR can help. Higher education philanthropy poses a unique set of challenges—a large institutional bureaucracy, a wide range of giving options, and an unfortunate history of violating donor intent. Working with FAR, you can be confident your gift is making a difference.

### **What should I expect if I contact FAR?**

FAR provides advice at every stage of the giving process, from initial planning to signing the final gift agreement. Once you reach out to FAR, we will set up an initial phone call to learn more about your philanthropic vision and where you are in the giving process. Following our conversation, FAR will provide suggestions for moving forward with your gift based on your goals and interests. Any information you share with FAR is confidential.

Depending on the nature of your gift, we may recommend a consultation with our colleagues at Arnold & Porter, LLC, a nationally respected law firm. Its legal expertise, particularly on donor intent, can be a valuable supplement to your own legal counsel.

### **What type of gifts do you advise on?**

FAR has advised on gifts ranging from scholarship funds to endowed chairs, from gifts of less than \$10,000 to more than \$10 million. The right giving mechanism, such as a donor-advised fund or private giving, should reflect your goals and maximize the impact of your philanthropy. FAR can help whether you are giving now or planning for the future.

### **Does this service replace my financial advisor? My attorney?**

FAR partners with your advisors to craft a transformative gift, bringing our expertise in higher education to the table. FAR can come alongside you and your advisors to help protect the intent of your gift.



ACTA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to academic freedom, academic excellence, and accountability in higher education. We receive no government funding and are supported through the generosity of individuals and foundations.

### Can you help me write my gift agreement?

FAR can review your gift agreement and provide suggestions for clarifying your goals, protecting your intent, and structuring your gift. We cannot edit your gift agreement, but we will work in close consultation with you and your attorney to strengthen the terms of the agreement. We can also connect you to our network of on-campus contacts to ensure that campus officials fully understand your goals.

### What is the fee structure?

Thanks to the generosity of the Diana Davis Spencer Foundation, FAR offers its services at no cost to donors. Past donors who found our guidance helpful have provided testimonials to the power of transformative giving. Donations to the American Council of Trustees and Alumni are also appreciated.

### How do you operate?

FAR operates as a program of ACTA, a 501(c)(3) organization. Our work is made possible by the generosity of our donors, including the Diana Davis Spencer Foundation.

## WHAT ARE OTHER DONORS SAYING?

“I appreciate the assistance of the **Fund for Academic Renewal** in structuring the gift and my agreement with UVM . . . FAR’s guidance led us to insert provisions in the gift agreement that we would never have thought of. These provisions will ensure that my objectives for the gift will be honored by the University for many years to come.” —Angelo Pizzagalli, donor to the University of Vermont

“FAR provides a level of expertise to people who do not have it and should be using it. If you want to have the best outcome, then you want to educate yourself on a variety of things. And what FAR offers is really important from that point of view. I found it really helpful to me, and it was critical in the ultimate outcome for us.” —Peter Sulick, donor to The Citadel

“Targeted philanthropy is one of the most effective ways to deliver the focus and intellectual integrity higher education so desperately needs. The **Fund for Academic Renewal** can help donors restore excellence through thoughtful, selective giving.” —Jane Barrows Tatibouet, former Regent at the University of Hawaii



**ACTA**  
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF  
TRUSTEES AND ALUMNI



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