

DONAGHUE DICTIONARY: pru'dence

Prudence is the fourth and last of Donaghue's stated values. It's a common requirement among those who hold resources to be used for the benefit of others. A person known for prudence is one exhibiting shrewdness in the management of his or her affairs, one who exercises skill and good judgment in the handling of resources. Donaghue is a bit different from most organizations entrusted with resources; while caution in all things may be a watchword for traditional foundations, we are expected by our purpose to welcome risk in our grant-making, for without risk there is less chance of discovery. Accordingly, we don't liken prudence to risk averseness; we talk of taking risks prudently. Sound contradictory — like rushing slowly? Or hurtling deliberately? We think not, and we carefully look before we willingly leap into innovative research initiatives. ▣

