

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL  
**RESEARCH, SCHOLARLY AND ARTISTIC WORK COMMITTEE**  
**REQUEST FOR DECISION**

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**PRESENTED BY:** Carol Rodgers, Chair

**DATE OF MEETING:** June 17, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Research Integrity Policy and related procedures

**DECISION REQUESTED:**

*It is recommended:*

*That Council approve the **Research Integrity Policy**, to replace the **Misconduct in Scholarly Work Policy** approved by Council in December, 1993, effective September 1, 2010.*

**PURPOSE:**

The *Research Integrity Policy* articulates the standards for integrity, accountability, and responsibility for all those involved in any capacity in research at the University of Saskatchewan.

**CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND:**

All institutions are required to show their commitment to the Tri-Council policy statement on *Integrity in Research and Scholarship* by adopting an institutional policy on integrity in research. In accordance with the Tri-Council directive, the attached *Research Integrity Policy* outlines the expectations for standards of appropriate behaviour in research and commits to ongoing education in research integrity. The policy document is intended to replace the *Misconduct in Scholarly Work Policy* approved by Council in 1993.

Accompanying and supporting the *Research Integrity Policy* are the *Procedures for Addressing Allegations of Research Misconduct* and *Procedures for Stewardship of Research Records* at the university. The *Procedures for Addressing Allegations of Research Misconduct* outlines the course of action to be followed within the university's administrative structures and in accordance with the principles of natural justice when an allegation of research misconduct is made. The *Procedures for Stewardship of Research Records* are written in response to the Tri-Council requirement for universities to state their responsibilities and expectations for the retention of research data and records.

In addition to the broad and extensive consultation undertaken in the development of the policy and related procedures, the proposed policy was harmonized with the university's *Guidelines for Academic Conduct* and *Regulations on Student Academic Misconduct*. The definition of research misconduct within the proposed *Research Integrity Policy* applies to undergraduate and graduate students; however, allegations of research misconduct against undergraduate and graduate students will be handled as described in the *Regulations on Student Academic Misconduct*.

#### **IMPLICATIONS:**

Cases of alleged academic misconduct that are currently in progress will proceed under the existing *Misconduct in Scholarly Work* policy; any new cases that are brought forward after September 1, 2010, regardless of when the alleged misconduct occurred, will be subject to the *Research Integrity Policy* and related procedures.

Oversight of the procedures with respect to future amendments will be the responsibility of the Office of the Vice-President Research, with any subsequent revisions reported to Council for information. Future amendments to the policy document will be submitted to Council for approval.

#### **CONSULTATION:**

The following groups and individuals were consulted in the development of the draft policy and procedures:

- Associate Deans Research Forum
- Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee of Council
- Industry Liaison Office
- Human Resources Division
- Centres Forum
- Discrimination and Harassment Prevention Services
- Workplace Safety and Environmental Protection
- Vice-President Research Executive
- U of S Archives
- University Secretary
- USSU Executive
- GSA Executive
- Access and Privacy Officer, Corporate Administration
- Dean, College of Graduate Studies and Research
- Associate Vice-President, Student and Enrolment Services
- Vice-Provost, Faculty Relations
- Chief Information Officer and Associate Vice-President, Information and Communications Technology
- University Library

In addition, the draft policy and procedural documents were posted on the Vice-President Research website, and the above individuals and groups invited to further review the documents and provide additional feedback.

**SUMMARY:**

Upholding high ethical standards at the university is critical to the integrity of the university's mission for excellence in scholarly work. The *Research Integrity Policy* and related procedures outline the university's expectations for appropriate conduct in research and provides a process to fairly address allegations of misconduct.

**FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED:**

Members of the university community, as defined in the policy, will be informed through the Office of the Vice-President Research of the policy and procedures to permit adjustments to research practices prior to the September 1, 2010 implementation date.

Ongoing educational opportunities will be provided under the direction of the Office of the Vice-President Research to ensure members of the university community are equipped to aspire towards the highest standards of integrity, accountability and responsibility.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. *Research Integrity Policy*
2. *Procedures for Addressing Allegations of Research Misconduct at the University of Saskatchewan*
3. *Procedures for Stewardship of Research Records at the University of Saskatchewan*

The university's present policy on misconduct in scholarly work can be found at:

[http://www.usask.ca/university\\_secretary/policies/research/8\\_25.php](http://www.usask.ca/university_secretary/policies/research/8_25.php)