

University of California
Office of the President
June 19, 1990

University Policy on Integrity in Research

Policy

It is longstanding policy of the University of California to encourage and maintain the highest ethical standards in research. This Policy reaffirms the University's commitment to integrity in research.

Integrity in research includes not just the avoidance of wrongdoing, but also the rigor, carefulness, and accountability that are hallmarks of good scholarship. All persons engaged in research at the University are responsible for adhering to the highest standards of intellectual honesty and integrity in research. Faculty and other supervisors of research activities have a responsibility to create an environment which encourages those high standards and integrity in research. Open publication and discussion, emphasis on quality of research, appropriate supervision, maintenance of accurate and detailed research procedures and results, and suitable assignment of credit and responsibility for research and publications are essential for fostering intellectual honesty and integrity in research.

University policies set forth expectations for high standards of ethical behavior for faculty and students involved in research and provide procedures for addressing allegations of misconduct in research. Those policies and procedures are set forth in the Bylaws of the Academic Senate, the University Policy on Faculty Code of Conduct and the Administration of Discipline, and University Policies Applying to Campus Activities, Organizations, and Students—Part A, Student Conduct and Discipline. Procedures for administration of discipline also exist for other academic and staff employees in accordance with applicable personnel policies and collective bargaining agreements. (A list of University of California policies which pertain to integrity in research is attached.)

Misconduct means fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, or other practices that seriously deviate from those that are commonly accepted within the scholarly and scientific community for proposing, conducting, or reporting research. Misconduct does not include honest error or honest differences in interpretations or judgments of data.¹

¹The definition of misconduct is based upon the regulations of the Public Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services (Responsibilities of PHS Awardee and Applicant Institutions for Dealing with and Reporting Possible Misconduct in Science, 42 CFR, Part 50, Subpart A), and it is consistent with the ethical principles and types of unacceptable conduct regarding scholarship listed in the Faculty Code of Conduct and with the types of misconduct specified in the University Policy on Student Conduct and Discipline.

The University will continue to take prompt and vigorous action to investigate and address allegations of misconduct in research, based on the following principles:

- Institutional and academic responsibility for self-regulation;
- Mechanisms to protect to the greatest extent possible the due process rights of the accused, the interests of those making allegations, and the public interest;
- The highest degree of confidentiality compatible with an effective response and applicable sponsor reporting requirements; and
- Precautions against real or apparent conflict of interest.

Campus and Laboratory Implementation

Campuses and Laboratories shall have necessary guidelines and procedures to provide appropriate responses to allegations of misconduct in research. Such guidelines and procedures should specify how pertinent University policies and procedures will be used to address allegations of misconduct in research by faculty, students, and staff. When extramural funds are involved, local guidelines and procedures also should comply with conditions of the award, including applicable regulations issued by the sponsor of the research. Such regulations include, but are not limited to, the Responsibilities of PHS Awardee and Applicant Institutions for Dealing with and Reporting Possible Misconduct in Science (42 CFR, Part 50, Subpart A) and the National Science Foundation regulations on Misconduct in Science and Engineering Research (45 CFR, Part 689). Among their requirements, these regulations require specific reports to the sponsoring agency.

Chancellors and Laboratory Directors, or their designees, shall be responsible for implementation of this Policy, which may include the consideration of initial reports of misconduct and, when necessary, the referral or initiation of formal investigations. Local guidelines and procedures should clarify available mechanisms for imposing appropriate sanctions or discipline on individuals when the allegation of misconduct has been substantiated. Chancellors and Laboratory Directors, or their designees, shall refer to the University Policy and Procedures for Reporting Improper Governmental Activities and Protection Against Retaliation for Reporting Improper Activities to ensure coordination of allegations of misconduct which may be reported under that Policy and to advise on the procedures to protect against retaliation.

Copies of local guidelines and procedures shall be sent to the Senior Vice President—Academic Affairs for review as to compliance with this Policy.

University of California Policies which Pertain to Integrity in Research

1. University Policy on Faculty Conduct and the Administration of Discipline (June 14, 1974), including the Faculty Code of Conduct (August 26, 1988).
2. University Policy on Disclosure of Financial Interest in Private Sponsors of Research (April 26, 1984).
3. Policy on Outside Professional Activities of Faculty Members (April 13, 1979).
4. Standing Order of The Regents of the University of California 103.1(b), Special Provisions Concerning Officers, Faculty Members, and Employees of the University, Service Obligations.
5. University Policy on the Use of Animals in Research and Teaching (October 15, 1984).
6. University Policy on the Protection of Human Subjects in Research (September 2, 1981).
7. Guidelines on University-Industry Relations (May 17, 1989).
8. University Regulation No. 4, Special Services to Individuals and Organizations, Academic Personnel Manual, Section 020, (June 23, 1958).
9. University Policies Applying to Campus Activities, Organizations, and Students—Part A, Student Conduct and Discipline (October 31, 1983).
10. Business and Finance Bulletin G-39, Conflict of Interest Policy and Compendium of Specialized University Policies, Guidelines, and Regulations Related to Conflict of Interest (Revised April 15, 1986 and June 15, 1989).
11. Guidelines for Disclosure and Review of Principal Investigators' Financial Interest in Private Sponsors of Research (April 27, 1984).
12. University of California Patent Policy (November 18, 1985 and revised in part on April 16, 1990).
13. University Copyright Policy (August 1, 1975).
14. University Policy and Procedures for Reporting Improper Governmental Activities and Protection Against Retaliation for Reporting Improper Activities (January 1, 1990).