

Governors State University

Research and Scholarship

The primary mission of Governors State University is teaching. Research and scholarship are essential to the success of the teaching mission. Scholarship is defined in broad terms to include not only the scholarship of discovery of knowledge, but also the scholarship of integration of knowledge, the scholarship of application of knowledge, and scholarship on pedagogy.

Researchers assure quality and integrity in their scholarship primarily by self-regulation, by adherence to individual ethical codes and professional standards, and by reference to the traditions and collegiality that characterize academic institutions. Many professional associations have ethical codes and guidelines for the conduct of research; university personnel are expected to comply with such standards, and violations may become grounds for university disciplinary action. University staff members in leadership or supervisory positions have a special obligation to foster academic integrity in their relationships and in their work.

I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- A. Open scholarly exchange and academic freedom must be observed. It shall be the prime concern of all persons who implement the research policy to protect academic freedom and tenure. Academic freedom affords no license for academic misconduct described below in B.

The university will enter into only those grants, contracts, and agreements that support the freedom to disclose the results of the proposed research, the identity of any sponsors of the research, and the purpose and scope of the research. The university will not accept research grants, contracts, or agreements for research that compromise the university's pursuit of its educational mission or that violate the public interest.

- B. All members of the university community are expected to observe high standards of academic integrity and ethical behavior in research and publication. Any practice or conduct by a member of the university community that seriously deviates from those ethical standards for proposing, conducting and publishing research that are commonly accepted within the professional community constitutes academic misconduct in violation of university policy. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to:
1. Fabrication or falsification of data, including intentionally misleading, selective or deliberately false reporting of results, credentials, or other academically related information;

2. Unacknowledged appropriation of the work of others, including plagiarism, the abuse of confidentiality with respect to unpublished materials, or misappropriation of physical materials;
3. Evasion of, or intentional failure after notice by the university or federal, state or other appropriate agency to comply with research regulations or requirements, including but not limited to those applying to human subjects, laboratory animals, new drugs, radioactive materials, genetically altered organisms, and to safety; and
4. Other conduct that seriously deviates from accepted ethical standards in scholarship.

Differences of interpretation or judgment or honest error do not constitute academic misconduct.

- C. Research conducted under the auspices of the university may be supported in whole or in part through funds provided by outside entities in the form of research gifts, research grants, or research contracts. A faculty member may conduct preliminary negotiations with prospective supporters of research with the prior knowledge of the dean or unit head but neither has the authority to bind the university to enter into the contract.

Proposals for funded research projects at the university require the approval of the University President or his/her designee. The principal investigator has primary responsibility for the management of all expenditures under his or her sponsored project. The college shares the responsibility to ensure that the management of all expenditures is consistent with university policies and procedures and/or sponsor's restrictions. The responsibilities for compliance with these policies rest with the principal investigator(s), the division chair, the dean of the college, and the directors of the relevant institute(s) and center(s), the Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research, and the Provost, in the regular channels for review and authorization of grants, contracts, and agreements.

- D. The Institutional Review Board, and any other body determined by university policy to have oversight for research, must review and approve all research proposals.

II. FACULTY RESEARCH PARTICIPATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF DUTIES

- A. The University encourages all its faculty members to participate in research projects, to disseminate the results of research, and to apply new knowledge and creative skills in the classroom and in the community.

- B. The University President or his/her designee will foster faculty research opportunities by providing timely and resourceful information on grant opportunities to all faculty.
- C. The University, in consultation with the division faculties, develops Division Criteria for evaluation of teaching and primary duties, research and creative activities, and service. These criteria provide the basis for decisions for retention, tenure, and professional advancement awards.
- D. The dean or unit head, upon approval of the Provost, will allow a faculty member released time from teaching for research activities when he/she receives a grant, contract, and /or other agreement with appropriate funding. This is separate from scholarship CUEs as defined in the faculty contract.
- E. The University may provide the colleges with funds to support faculty members who present research findings at national and/or international conferences and meetings, contingent upon availability of funding.

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