

The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

Proposal 4-08

(Voting Units: Full Senate)

Revision of Scientific Misconduct Policy (36-95)

Misconduct in Research, Scholarly, and Creative Endeavors

A major goal of the University is the furthering of research, scholarly, and creative endeavors. The University upholds the scientific method in the conduct of research and is committed to the ethical conduct of all endeavors by its faculty, staff and students.

A requirement of valid experimental observation or theoretical deduction is that the data and/or the conditions of obtaining the data and results can be verified, either by scrutiny of accurate records made at the time of experimentation or by repetition of the experiments or theoretical deduction.

Conduct inconsistent with the ethical research, scholarly, and creative endeavors and which is considered misconduct includes:

- A. Significant departure from accepted practices in the relevant research community in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or reporting research results, such as fabrication, falsification, deception, misrepresentation, or arbitrary selection of data;
- B. Plagiarism or other appropriation of the work of another individual and presenting it as if it were one's own or without credit to the originator as is required by commonly accepted practices in the community of one's discipline; plagiarism also includes self plagiarism, for example publishing the same work in multiple scholarly journals without receiving permission to do so;
- C. Material failure to comply with funding agency (federal, state, private, etc.) requirements that uniquely relate to the conduct of the endeavor; and
- D. Retaliation against a person who, acting in good faith, has reported or provided information about suspected or alleged misconduct.
- E. Misconduct does not include honest error or differences of opinion.

When such misconduct is alleged, a thorough and timely process shall take place with the University to provide adequate opportunity for reaching valid conclusions about the alleged misconduct. It is imperative that the University's Misconduct Procedures be followed to protect the rights and reputation of those involved. Individuals found guilty of misconduct are subject to discipline up to and including dismissal.

See "Misconduct Procedures" for more information.

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Became Senate Policy 204.1