

**The University Senate of Michigan Technological  
University  
Proposal 43-22**

**Revision of Misconduct Policy in Research, Scholarly, and Creative  
Endeavors (4-08)**

(Voting Units: Academic Only)

Submitted by: Research Policy Committee and the Office of the Vice President for Research

**I. Introduction**

The current Senate Policy 204.1, Misconduct Policy in Research, Scholarly, and Creative Endeavors, was adopted by the Senate and approved by the Administration in the 2007/2008 academic year. The policy statement was prepared jointly by the Office of the Vice President for Research (VPR) with the Senate Research Policy Committee (RPC), and is still acceptable as a very broad statement. However, Policy 204.1 references the Coordinating Procedures 204.1.1, which are out of date.

**II. Rationale**

The Coordinate Procedures 204.1.1 is outdated, and has a number of problems, including that it refers to the wrong positions on campus and includes colleges and schools, etc. Most importantly, the University is required by Federal law to have a research misconduct policy that meets the Federal research misconduct requirements as a condition of the University's receipt of Federal agency research funding. Therefore, it is proposed that the Coordinate Procedures 204.1.1 be eliminated, and instead Policy 204.1 reference the VPR Procedures for Responding to Allegations of Misconduct. The VPR's office created this document, and keeps it updated as Federal law and the University change. This requires tracking Federal research policy/agency requirements and ensuring the University is compliant. The current Procedures 204.1.1 are inadequate in this regard, and the RPC is not equipped to keep the procedures up-to-date with current Federal law.

### III. Proposal

#### The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

#### Misconduct Policy in Research, Scholarly, and Creative Endeavors

(Proposal 36-95)

(Proposal 4-08)

#### Senate Policy 204.1

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.

For details, view the [Procedures for Responding to Allegations of Misconduct in Research, Scholarly and Creative Endeavors](#), which is maintained and kept up-to-date by the Office

of the Vice President for Research (VPR). The Office of the VPR will notify the Senate via the Research Policy Committee of any changes made to these procedures and the rationale. Additional information on reporting and whistleblower protection is available on the [Misconduct in Research page](#).

**Proposal 36-95**

**Adopted by Senate: May 3, 1995**

**Approved by President (with modifications): November 1, 1995**

**Rejected by Senate - Tabled until Fall Quarter 1996**

**Modifications Adopted by Senate: December 11, 1996**

**Proposal 4-08**

**Introduced in Senate: 14 Nov 2007**

**Amended by Senate: 14 Nov 2007**

**Adopted by Senate as Amended: 14 Nov**

**2007**  
**Approved by Administration: 16 Nov**  
**2007**