

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ACTION ITEM

DATE: October 2, 2014

COMMITTEE: Research, Outreach, and Economic Development

CAMPUS/UNIT: All

ITEM: **Resolution on Integrity in Research**

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

PRESENTED BY: Stacey S. Patterson, Assistant Vice President for Research and
Director of Research Partnerships

By accepting federal funding of research, the University is subject to federal regulations that require the University to foster a research environment designed to prevent research misconduct. Because the University brings together students, faculty, postdoctoral researchers, visiting faculty, and collaborators from all from vastly different educational backgrounds, research communities, and academic cultures, the need to create a culture of integrity in research is particularly compelling.

Federal regulations also require the University to have written policies and procedures to respond promptly and thoroughly to allegations of research misconduct. The Board approved a policy and procedures for responding to allegations of research misconduct in 1990 and amended it in 2005. Since then, federal regulators have amplified and interpreted the regulations to require increasingly specific and detailed procedures.

Given the increasing complexity of federal regulatory standards, and the importance of the University's compliance with those standards to ensure continued eligibility for federal research funding, the University administration recommends adoption of the following Resolution on Integrity in Research by which the Board:

1. affirms the University's commitment to integrity in research and to fostering a research environment that promotes the responsible conduct of research, discourages research misconduct, and deals promptly with allegations of research misconduct; and

2. directs the administration to take practical steps to comply with the obligation to foster a research environment that promotes the responsible conduct of research and discourages research misconduct; and
3. directs the administration to review and revise the University's research misconduct policy and procedures as necessary to ensure ongoing compliance with applicable federal regulations; and
4. delegates to the President the authority to approve the University's research misconduct policy and procedures after the campus faculty senates, or their delegates, and other relevant stakeholders have had an opportunity to review and comment; and
5. repeals the University's current policy and procedures on research misconduct effective as of the date established in the research misconduct policy and procedures approved by the President.

Resolution on Integrity in Research

**Adopted by The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees
October 3, 2014**

WHEREAS, public confidence in the integrity of research conducted at The University of Tennessee is critical to fulfilling the University's mission to discover and disseminate knowledge; and

WHEREAS, effective self-enforcement of integrity in research is essential to maintaining that public confidence; and

WHEREAS, acceptance of research funding from external entities carries with it the responsibility to monitor use of the funds and foster integrity in the research; and

WHEREAS, federal regulations require the University, as a recipient of federal funding for research, to foster a research environment that promotes the responsible conduct of research, discourages research misconduct, and deals promptly with allegations of research misconduct; and

WHEREAS, those federal regulations also require the University to maintain written policies and procedures that comply with detailed requirements for responding to allegations of research misconduct; and

WHEREAS, the University's current policy on research misconduct was adopted by the Board in 1990 and amended in 2005, but the governing federal regulations have since been amplified and interpreted by federal regulators to require increasingly specific and detailed procedures; and

WHEREAS, to facilitate compliance with federal regulations and a prompt response to changes in regulatory requirements and interpretations, the Board finds that development, approval, and maintenance of the University's research misconduct policy and procedures should be the responsibility of the administration.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees:

1. affirms the University's commitment to integrity in research and to fostering a research environment that promotes the responsible conduct of research, discourages research misconduct, and deals promptly with allegations of research misconduct; and
2. directs the administration to take practical steps to comply with the obligation to foster a research environment that promotes the responsible conduct of research and discourages research misconduct; and
3. directs the administration to review and revise the University's research misconduct policy and procedures as necessary to ensure ongoing compliance with applicable federal regulations; and
4. delegates to the President the authority to approve the University's research misconduct policy and procedures after the campus faculty senates, or their delegates, and other relevant stakeholders have had an opportunity to review and comment; and
5. repeals the University's current policy and procedures on research misconduct effective as of the date established in the research misconduct policy and procedures approved by the President.