

University Senate Conference
September 2025

**Policy on Integrity in Research and Publication Review Committee
Summary Report**

Research represents a crucial mission for the University of Illinois System. To maintain our reputation for excellence, we must comply with federal regulations, Illinois law, university policies and procedures, and ethical guidelines. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Research Integrity recently released a new regulation on research misconduct; see [ORI Final Rule](#). Institutions are required to follow the new rules for allegations received on or after January 1, 2026. In addition, the system-wide research integrity policy was last updated in 2021. Thus, it is an appropriate time to review the system policy to ensure it meets our needs.

University policy requires those who participate in research activities to act with the highest standards of integrity throughout the research process. Researchers are responsible to act in the best interests of society and to share their results openly to ensure the public can access the full benefits of the findings. The research integrity policy involves requirements from a number of government agencies and pertains to researchers across our universities, so it is prudent to have one overarching set of principles, rules, and guidelines at the system level.

In October 2024, Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs Nicholas P. Jones convened a committee to review the University's *Policy on Integrity in Research and Publication* (effective July 22, 2021). The group included individuals from the three universities and the system with knowledge of the principles of research integrity and the current policy. Faculty, legal counsel, and administrators whose portfolios include research integrity from the three universities and the System Offices were represented in the committee membership.

The Review Committee began meeting monthly in November 2024. Our efforts focused on reviewing and updating the University of Illinois System's *Policy on Integrity in Research and Publication* to address changes in requirements as outlined in the new Office of Research Integrity regulation. We also solicited and incorporated feedback on the changes from relevant stakeholder groups at the universities and system, including University Counsel and University Ethics and Compliance. A summary of significant changes to the policy follows. A table with more detailed explanations of changes and a marked up copy of the policy are attached.

Policy Review Committee Members:

Jennifer Hardesty, *Responsible Conduct of Research Faculty Fellow, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation and Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, UIUC, Chair*

Arthur Acevedo, *Research Integrity Officer, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Professor of Law, UIC*

Larry Danziger, *Executive Director, Collaborative for Advanced Design, Research and Exploration, Professor of Pharmacy in Medicine, UIC and University Senates Conference Representative*

Richard Gemeinhart, *Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Research Integrity Officer, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Professor of Pharmaceuticals and Bioengineering, UIC*

Carissa Isenberg, *Associate Director, Pre-Award, Office of the Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation, UIS*

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Chris Lehmann, *Research Integrity Office, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation, UIUC*

Justin “JT” Mohr, *Research Integrity Officer, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Associate Professor of Chemistry, UIC*

Lucía Vazquez, *Associate Vice Chancellor of Research and Innovation, UIS*

Sarah Zehr Gantz, *Senior Assistant Vice President of Academic Initiatives and Policies, SO (ex officio)*

Summary and explanation of significant changes to the current *Policy on Integrity in Research and Publication*

1. Title
The revised policy title includes “Research and Scholarly Activities” in place of “Research and Publication” to accurately reflect the scope of the policy.
2. IV. Definitions
 - The revised policy provides a definition for the following 13 terms, which were not defined in the current policy: Accepted Practices of the Relevant Research Community, Complaint, Detrimental Research Practices, Institutional Deciding Official, Institutional Record, Intentionally, Knowingly, Notice, Recklessly, Research, Responsible Official, Scholarly Activities, and University.
 - The revised policy removes definitions for the following 2 terms, which were defined in the current policy: Interference (because it is not included in the revised definition of Research Misconduct) and Record of Research Misconduct Proceedings (because it is subsumed by the new definition of Institutional Record).
 - The revised policy defines Allegation as distinct from Complaint.
 - The revised policy adds clarifying language to the definition of Plagiarism regarding the use of verbatim text, self-plagiarism, and authorship or credit disputes.
 - The revised policy adds clarifying language to the definition of Research Integrity.
 - The revised policy clarifies the definition of Research Misconduct to include falsification, fabrication, and plagiarism. The current policy included an extensive list of additional research practices that, although potentially harmful, often do not rise to the level of Research Misconduct. The revised policy distinguishes these practices as Detrimental Research Practices.
3. VI.3. Allegations Involving System Officials
The revised policy adds clarifying language on the process followed when allegations involve a system officer.
4. VI.4. Confidentiality
The revised policy expands provisions related to Confidentiality to include “need to know” stipulations.
5. VI.9. Interviews
The revised policy clarifies who can be present during an interview and that the Respondent is not permitted to be present for the interview of any other individuals.
6. VI.20. Redaction
The revised policy adds a general statement about Redaction in the General Provisions.
7. IX.1. Obligation to Produce Records and Other Evidence
The revised policy incorporates language regarding the destruction or withholding of research records.
8. X.1. Elements Required for Finding of Research Misconduct
The revised policy clarifies the elements required for a finding of Research Misconduct.
9. XII. Violations
The revised policy clarifies that the University’s decisions related to Research Misconduct are made independently of federal and non-federal sponsors, journals, and publishers.
10. In addition to the specific changes outlined above, the revised policy includes general editing throughout for clarity and consistency.