

## **RESEARCH MISCONDUCT POLICY**

### STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Researchers are expected to retain appropriate documentation for their research and adhere to accepted ethical standards appropriate to their academic discipline.

### DEFINITION OF RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

Misconduct is intentional falsification of data, plagiarism, or other practices that deviate from common research practice within the academic community for proposing, conducting, or reporting research. Honest errors and differences in interpretation of data are not considered misconduct. Misconduct is prohibited at UWSP, and may be cause for discipline or dismissal.

### REPORT OF RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

Research collaborators, colleagues, and anyone who has reason to believe that research misconduct has occurred has the responsibility of reporting the misconduct. Retaliation because of good faith reporting of misconduct is prohibited. However, individuals found to have brought allegations of a frivolous or malicious nature shall be subject to the same range of disciplinary action as individuals found guilty of violating this policy.

### PROCEDURE FOR PROCESSING RESEARCH MISCONDUCT ALLEGATIONS

1. Allegations shall be reported in writing to the dean of the appropriate college. The accused individual shall be informed in writing by the dean within 10 days (a) what allegations have been made, (b) the identity of the accuser, and (c) that an initial inquiry into the allegations may result in a subsequent investigation.
2. The dean of the college shall undertake a prompt and discreet inquiry. All matters pertaining to the inquiry shall be kept in strict confidence. The inquiry consists of information gathering and preliminary fact-finding to determine whether a more extensive investigation is warranted. The inquiry shall be completed within 60 days from the time the written allegations were received by the dean.
3. If the inquiry concludes that the allegation of misconduct is unsubstantiated, and an investigation is not warranted, then the reasons and supporting documentation for this conclusion shall be reported to the Chancellor. If the Chancellor concurs with the conclusion that an investigation is not warranted, then no further action shall be taken in the matter. The conclusion of the dean and Chancellor, as well as all supporting documentation from the inquiry, shall be recorded and the record maintained confidentially for a period of three years following termination of the inquiry.
4. If the inquiry finds reasonable cause to believe the allegations are neither frivolous nor misguided, the individual against whom the allegation was made shall be provided a copy of the report of the dean's inquiry. The matter shall then be referred to an ad hoc committee appointed by the dean for formal investigation. Committee members shall be individuals who are knowledgeable in the researcher's area of study, but who are not involved with the research in question nor in competition with the accused. It may be advisable in certain situations to invite researchers from other institutions to participate in the investigation. The investigation shall be initiated within 30 days of the completion of the inquiry. If the research in question has been supported by extramural funds, the institution may be required to notify the funding agency that a formal investigation is underway.
  - A. The ad hoc committee shall determine whether misconduct has occurred and assess its extent and consequences.

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B. If the ad hoc committee finds the charges to be true, then the dean shall follow normal governance procedures (UWSP Chapters 4, 6, 11, or 13) to invoke an appropriate penalty, ranging from reprimand to dismissal.

C. A copy of the committee's report shall be provided to the individual under investigation. The dean shall afford the individual under investigation an opportunity to discuss the matter with the committee and himself/herself prior to any action taken under Section 4(B) above. The individual under investigation may reply in writing to the Committee. Any reply will be appended to the committee report.

D. Appropriate agencies and journals shall be notified by the Office of Academic Affairs in the event that misconduct is verified by the ad hoc committee.

E. If misconduct is not verified by the ad hoc committee, extensive efforts shall be made to restore the reputation of the accused individual.