

**Policy on Misconduct in Research  
Commission on Research  
COR 2006-07 A**

Approved by the Commission on Research:	March 21, 2007
Approved by the Commission on Faculty Affairs	April 10, 2007
Approved by the Faculty Senate	April 10, 2007
First Reading by University Council	April 30, 2007
Approved by University Council:	May 7, 2007
Approved by the President:	May 7, 2007
Approved by the Board of Visitors:	August 27, 2007
Effective Date:	Upon approval

WHEREAS, the university endorses high ethical standards in conducting research to ensure public trust in the integrity of research results, and the university wishes to foster a research environment that promotes responsible conduct of research; and

WHEREAS, certain federal agencies have regulations that require institutions receiving federal funds to have established policies and procedures to address misconduct in research, and those agencies have provided very detailed guidance to universities through the Code of Federal Regulations on the acceptable handling and investigation of allegations of scholarly misconduct; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that the research enterprise at Virginia Tech has grown substantially over the last decade, and that a finding of scholarly misconduct can be extremely damaging to the individual researcher and to the institution given the national attention to this issue, the university has responded by reviewing its existing policy and infrastructure for dealing with scholarly misconduct in a effort to better manage risk and provide better support and education to researchers; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revisions are designed to accomplish the following important goals: 1) to bring the policy and detailed procedures into compliance with federal requirements; 2) to achieve greater consistency and assure appropriate compliance by assigning responsibility for oversight of scholarly misconduct issues and investigations to a Research Integrity Officer (RIO) reporting to the Vice President for Research -- investigatory and decision making responsibility previously were assigned to the relevant dean; 3) to better integrate the involvement of the Faculty Senate Committee on Faculty Ethics (CFE) by including a CFE member on the inquiry and investigative committees; and 4) to adopt even more detailed procedures to assure fairness and transparency in the review of allegations of scholarly misconduct; and 5) to formalize the policy as a numbered policy as well as revising text in the Faculty Handbook (currently section 2.7.7).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the revised Policy on Misconduct in Research be approved and the policy be forwarded to the President and the Board of Visitors for approval. The detailed procedures are provided as a complement to the policy and information for the university community.