RESOLUTION AFFIRMING ETHICAL RESEARCH STANDARDS

On behalf of the Research Policy Committee, Professor Paula Poindexter (journalism) submitted the following resolution affirming ethical research standards. The secretary has classified the resolution as general legislation. It will be voted on by the Faculty Council at its meeting on January 25, 2010.

Sue Alexander Greninger, Secretary
The Faculty Council and General Faculty

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING ETHICAL RESEARCH STANDARDS

The Faculty Council at The University of Texas at Austin expects faculty, staff, students, and administrators at the University of Texas to adhere to the highest standards of ethical research. The following standards are affirmed as the University’s ethical research core.

Ethical Research Standards at the University of Texas at Austin

I. Preamble.
Because integrity is the foundation of research excellence, faculty, staff, students, and administrators at the University of Texas at Austin are expected to adhere to the highest ethical standards during every phase of the research process and in every research role, including researcher, reviewer, editor, evaluator, supervisor, collaborator, and research assistant. The following standards serve as an ethical research core and underscore a fundamental principle: research excellence at the University of Texas at Austin can only be achieved when the foundation is built on integrity and transparency.

II. Acknowledge source of text, images and ideas.
Using the wording, images, or ideas of others without crediting the source of the material is plagiarism, a violation of ethical research conduct. Plagiarism, according to the University of Texas at Austin, “occurs if you represent as your own work any material that was obtained from another source, regardless of how or where you acquired it.”

III. Avoid conflicts of interest in the design, execution, and reporting of research.
If any aspect of the research process is compromised or if financial, professional, or personal interests may bias the outcome of the research, a conflict of interest exists. Ensure the integrity of the research process and the validity of the research results by being alert to potential or perceived conflicts of interest.

IV. Respect human research participants and their rights.
Ethical research stipulates that human participation is voluntary, confidentiality is safeguarded, human participants are not harmed, and consent is informed.

V. Gather, analyze, and report data honestly.
Manufacturing, falsifying, concealing, and skewing data to generate research or produce specific outcomes is unethical. Every aspect of data collection, analysis, and reporting must be handled with the utmost integrity. Data should be made available to the researcher’s community per community standards.
VI. Assign author credit according to author’s contributions.
An author’s contribution to a study should dictate authorship; the order in which authors are listed should reflect
discipline practices and have meaning in terms of author agreements and responsibilities during the research
process.

VII. Submit original—not previously published—research for publication and adhere to discipline’s rules
on simultaneous submissions.
It is unethical to represent previously published studies as original. Acknowledge previous research that a
publication is based on and follow discipline practices regarding simultaneous submissions.

VIII. Teach, supervise, and mentor the research process with integrity and transparency.
As supervisors and mentors, faculty are responsible for ensuring that students and junior faculty design and
conduct research with integrity and transparency. As supervisors and mentors, faculty have responsibility for
making certain that students and junior faculty follow ethical research standards and university research
policies. Furthermore, as supervisors and mentors, faculty must not pressure students or junior faculty for
unearned author credit or take advantage of them in any way.

Notes:
1. In 2008-09, the Faculty Council’s Research Policy Committee, chaired by Paula Poi oxidex of journalism, set
out to strengthen the ethical research core of the University community by developing and proposing a set of
guidelines that emphasize ethical research while respecting differences across colleges, departments, units, and
disciplines. The Research Policy Committee encourages incorporating these ethical research standards in
department and unit activities. Special thanks is extended to the following individuals for sharing their ideas
about ethical research standards for the University community: Juan Sanchez, vice president of research; John
Kappelman, professor, anthropology and past chair of the Research Policy Committee. At the start of the 2009-
10 academic year, Paula Poi oxidex presented the recommended ethical research standards to the provost and to
the Deans’ Council. Additionally, the ethical research standards were submitted to Janet Staiger, chair of the
Faculty Council for consideration of adoption. The present version of the Ethical Research Standards includes
input from the 2009-10 Faculty Council Executive Committee and the 2009-10 Research Policy Committee
chairs by Alexandra Loukas, kinesiology and health education.

2. The Dean of Students’ definition of plagiarism is at

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