



Academic Senate
Professor Kenneth Barish
Division Chair

December 17, 2025

Rodolfo Torres
Vice Provost for Research and Development

Re: Federally Required Changes to the Policy and Procedures for Responding to Allegations of Research Misconduct, [Policy #529-900](#)

Dear Rodolfo,

The Academic Senate Executive Council discussed the subject policy revisions and the related feedback memos from responding committees.

During our meeting, the Council requested it be made clear which changes are federally mandated and which are not. It appears that policy updates appear to go far further than federally mandated, and **we request that any interim policy include only those that are federally mandated** to give time for thoughtful incorporation of Senate feedback. Members expressed concern that the new language is vague (using terms like "reasonable," "encourage," and "promptly"), which raises fears among faculty that the Administration could take excessive control while marginalizing the Senate's role in shared governance, and diminishing transparency and fairness. Concern was also expressed that the policy revisions represent a significant administrative overreach that undermines shared governance and the Senate's ability to contribute to the definition of processes and consequences at the start of issues.

Reviewing the committee feedback, which is attached, the most detailed critiques came from the Committee on Privilege & Tenure, which highlighted significant concerns about procedural timelines, the appointment process for Research Integrity Officers (RIOs), and the operational impact on university record-keeping. Other key themes emerging from the collective feedback include a need for clearer definitions of key terms like "experts," ambiguity in the statute of limitations for allegations, and new challenges posed by artificial intelligence and the current research climate. The College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, the Committee on Faculty Welfare, the School of Education, and the Committee on Research also raised specific points requesting modification and greater clarity. Conversely, the committees for CHASS, Graduate Council, Planning and Budget, and the School of Medicine registered no objections, with the latter noting the policy had been vetted by UCR's Chief Compliance and Legal Office.

The collective feedback from the reviewing committees coalesces around four primary areas of concern: procedural timelines and deadlines, clarity of definitions and language, integrity of appointments and processes, and broader operational and emerging issues.

1. Procedural Timelines and Deadlines

Multiple committees identified inconsistencies and potential inequities in the policy's specified timelines.

- **Clarity of "Days":** The Committee on Privilege & Tenure noted that "it is not clear if calendar or business days are being used" throughout the document and recommended this be made explicit.
- **Statute of Limitations (Section IV.E):** The College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (CNAS) requested a review to "clarify the ambiguity in the phrasing" of the six-year limitation for misconduct allegations. The current text states: "This policy applies to Research Misconduct occurring within six (6) years of the date the allegation is received by the RIO. In cases where an applicable Federal policy time limitation differs, the federal policy will take precedence." CNAS suggests adding verbiage to clarify this timeline.
- **Preliminary Assessment Timeline (Section VI.B):** The Committee on Privilege & Tenure expressed concern that the timeframe for conducting a preliminary investigation has been deleted. It recommends restoring a version of the previous text, suggesting: "Research Integrity Officer shall conduct and complete the preliminary assessment promptly. If the Research Integrity Officer requires more than ten (10) days to complete the preliminary assessment, he or she shall document and record the reason and complete the assessment as promptly thereafter as possible."
- **Report vs. Response Timelines (Section VII.E.3):** The Committee on Privilege & Tenure questioned the justification for extending the time to produce a draft Inquiry Report from 60 to 90 days while simultaneously compressing the respondent's time to reply from 14 days to 7. The committee stated, "We are concerned about the imbalance between parties that are produced by these revisions to the time allotted to investigation and response."

2. Definitions and Clarity of Language

A recurring theme was the need for more precise definitions of key terms to ensure consistent and fair application of the policy.

- **Definition of "Experts":** Both the Committee on Faculty Welfare (CFW) and the School of Education (SOE) Executive Committee requested clarification on the term "experts."
 - CFW stated: "There is a need to clarify the composition of both the Inquiry Committee and Investigation Committee, specifically whether these committees will/must consist of experts who are faculty members."
 - The SOE committee asked "if the policy should explicitly define 'experts' along with other definitions."
- **Clarification of "Misconduct":** The Committee on Research requested "more statements or clarification around what would not classify as misconduct."
- **Concern over "Objective":** The Committee on Research also raised a concern regarding the word "objective," noting members questioned "how 'objective' could be weaponized given the current climate towards research."

3. Appointment and Process Integrity

The Committee on Privilege & Tenure identified potential gaps in procedural integrity, particularly concerning the appointment of the Research Integrity Officer (RIO) and the initiation of investigations.

- **RIO Appointment in Conflict-of-Interest Cases (Section III.A):** The committee pointed out that the policy does not detail how an RIO is appointed in cases where the designated officials ("the AVC of Research and a member of the Academic Senate") are unavailable or "conflicted out of the case." It recommended that this process be clarified.
- **Investigation Initiation (Section VI.B.1):** The committee recommended an edit for clarity regarding the start of an investigation, proposing the following language: "The Investigation will begin within thirty (30) days or within a reasonable time after the determination has been made that an Investigation is warranted. If an extension is needed, the reason and length of the extension should be documented by the RIO. If required by applicable law or regulation, the RIO will request an extension from the agency."

4. Operational and Emerging Issues

Committees also highlighted the policy's downstream operational impacts and its silence on significant emerging challenges in research.

- **UC Records Retention Schedule:** The Committee on Privilege & Tenure noted that the "six-year timeframe for the filing of research integrity complaints will require adjustments in the UC Records Retention Schedule, as a number of records related to research integrity are destroyed/deleted in less time."
- **Artificial Intelligence:** The Committee on Research raised the issue of new technology, stating that "members wanted more statements or clarification around... how artificial intelligence can be factored into the policy."

Sincerely,



Ken Barish
Chair, Academic Senate

Encl.

Cc: Provost Watkins
Vice Provost – Academic Personnel Jeske
Associate Vice Chancellor – Research and Economic Development Coss
Associate Vice Chancellor – Research Administration & Compliance Greer
Chief Campus Counsel Penaloza
Chief Compliance Officer Boyce
Research Compliance Analyst Donahue
Senate Director Cortez
Senior Investigator Kidder



College of Humanities, Arts, and
Social Sciences
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 30, 2025

TO: Ken Barish, Chair
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

FROM: Iván Aguirre, Interim Chair
CHASS Executive Committee

RE: [Campus Review] Proposed Revised Policy: Federally required changes to the
Policy and Procedures for Responding to Allegations of Research Misconduct,
Policy #529-900

The CHASS Executive Committee reviewed the [Campus Review] Proposed Revised Policy: Federally required changes to the Policy and Procedures for Responding to Allegations of Research Misconduct, Policy #529-900. The committee supports the proposed revised policy.

November 26th, 2025

TO: Kenneth N. Barish, Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division

FROM: Harry Tom, Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and
Agricultural Sciences

SUBJECT: [Campus Review] Proposed Revised Policy: Federally required changes to the Policy and
Procedures for Responding To Allegations of Research Misconduct, Policy #529-900

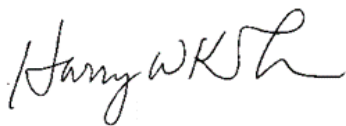
Prof. Barish,

The CNAS Faculty Executive Committee has reviewed the proposed revisions to Policy #529-900 at their
November 25th meeting and had comments to provide to the Senate.

The committee does not object to moving forward with the proposed policy revisions. However, the
committee would like to request that the paragraph content of policy section IV.E. be reviewed to
clarify the ambiguity in the phrasing of the policy: **“This policy applies to Research Misconduct
occurring within six (6) years of the date the allegation is received by the RIO.** In cases where an
applicable Federal policy time limitation differs, the federal policy will take precedence. “

The committee would like to suggest verbiage to clarify this timeline.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry Tom".

Harry Tom, Ph.D
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences



Academic Senate

Committee on Research

December 1, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Padma Rangarajan, Chair
Committee on Research

Re: Federally required changes to the Policy and Procedures for Responding to Allegations of Research Misconduct, Policy #529-900

The committee on research the policy change and had a few comments regarding the word, more specific, how “objective” could be weaponized given the current climate towards research. Additionally, members wanted more statements or clarification around what would not classify as misconduct and how artificial intelligence can be factored into the policy.



Academic Senate

COMMITTEE ON FACULTY WELFARE

November 26, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division Academic Senate

From: Salman Asif, Chair
Committee on Faculty Welfare

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'M. Salman Asif'.

Re: [Campus Review] Proposed Revised Policy: *Federally required changes to the Policy and Procedures for Responding To Allegations of Research Misconduct, Policy #529-900*

At our meeting on November 18, 2025, the Committee on Faculty Welfare (CFW) reviewed the *Federally required changes to the Policy and Procedures for Responding To Allegations of Research Misconduct, Policy #529-900*. CFW has the following comment:

- There is a need to clarify the composition of both the Inquiry Committee and Investigation Committee, specifically whether these committees will/must consist of experts who are faculty members.



Academic Senate

GRADUATE COUNCIL

November 20, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Viji Santhakumar, Chair
Graduate Council

RE: [Campus Review] (Proposed Revised Policy) Federally required changes to the Policy and Procedures for Responding To Allegations of Research Misconduct, Policy #529-900

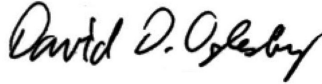
Graduate Council reviewed the proposed revisions to the Policy and Procedures for Responding to Allegations of Research Misconduct, Policy #529-900 at their November 20, 2025 meeting. The Council had no comments.

PLANNING AND BUDGET

November 24, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: David Oglesby, Chair
Committee on Planning and Budget

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David D. Oglesby".

Re: **[Campus Review] Proposed Revised Policy: *Federally required changes to the Policy and Procedures for Responding To Allegations of Research Misconduct, Policy #529-900***

At our meeting on October 28, 2025, the Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) reviewed the *Federally required changes to the Policy and Procedures for Responding To Allegations of Research Misconduct, Policy #529-900*. CPB did not see any budget-related red flags and has no objections to the proposed policy revisions.



Academic Senate

COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGE & TENURE

December 1, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

Fr: Jennifer Doyle
Chair, Committee on Privilege & Tenure

Re: **[Campus Review] Proposed Revised Policy: *Federally required changes to the Policy and Procedures for Responding To Allegations of Research Misconduct, Policy #529-900***

The Committee on Privilege and Tenure reviewed the proposed changes to the Policy and Procedures for Responding to Allegations of Research Misconduct, Policy #529-900. We have a few areas of concern. Below are requests for clarification and our recommendations.

Throughout the document, it is not clear if calendar or business days are being used. This should be made explicit.

Section A of Part III (Authority and Responsibility for Oversight and Implementation of the Policy and Procedure) describes the appointment of the Research Integrity Officer (the person responsible for the investigation of a case). The policy does not detail how an RIO is appointed in cases in which “the AVC of Research and a member of the Academic Senate” is not available (e.g. conflicted out of the case). We recommend that this process be made clear.

Section E of Part IV (General Principles): A six-year timeframe for the filing of research integrity complaints will require adjustments in the UC Records Retention Schedule, as a number of records related to research integrity are destroyed/deleted in less time.

Section B of Part VI (Preliminary Assessment): The timeframe for conducting a preliminary investigation has been deleted. We recommend a restoration of a version of the deleted text: “Research Integrity Officer shall conduct and complete the preliminary assessment promptly. If the Research Integrity Officer requires more than ten (10) days to complete the preliminary assessment, he or she shall document and record the reason and complete the assessment as promptly thereafter as possible.” An edited version of this text might specify ten business days.

Section B.1 of Part VI (Preliminary Assessment): We recommend the following edit for clarity: “The Investigation will begin within thirty (30) days ~~or within a reasonable time~~ after the

determination has been made that an Investigation is warranted. If an extension is needed, the reason and length of the extension should be documented by the RIO. If required by applicable law or regulation, the RIO will request an extension from the agency.”

Section E.3, of Part VII (Inquiry Into Allegations): Is there a justification for extending the time for the production of a draft Inquiry Report (from 60 to 90) and for compressing the time the respondent has to respond to the draft Inquiry Report from 14 days to 7? We are concerned about the imbalance between parties that are produced by these revisions to the time allotted to investigation and response.

12/01/2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate
and Cherysa Cortez, Executive Director of the UCR Academic Senate

From: Kinnari Atit, Ph.D., Faculty Chair of the School of Education Executive Committee

Subject: SOE Feedback on "Proposed Revised Policy: Federally required changes to the Policy and Procedures for Responding To Allegations of Research Misconduct, Policy #529-900"

The SOE Executive Committee reviewed the "Proposed Revised Policy: Federally required changes to the Policy and Procedures for Responding To Allegations of Research Misconduct, Policy #529-900". Comments/feedback were solicited at our executive committee meeting and via email.

A member of the SOE Faculty Executive Committee asked if the policy should explicitly define "experts" along with other definitions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kinnari Atit", followed by a stylized flourish or second signature.

Kinnari Atit
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee
School of Education
University of California, Riverside
Email: kinnari.atit@ucr.edu



November 25, 2025

TO: Ken Barish, PhD, Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division

FROM: Adam Godzik, Ph.D., Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, UCR School of Medicine

SUBJECT: **[Campus Review] Proposed Revised Policy: *Federally required changes to the Policy and Procedures for Responding To Allegations of Research Misconduct, Policy #529-900***

Dear Ken,

The SOM Faculty Executive Committee has reviewed the *Proposed Revised Policy: Federally required changes to the Policy and Procedures for Responding to Allegations of Research Misconduct, Policy #529-900* which has been vetted by UCR's Chief Compliance and Legal Office.

The FEC has no further comments.

Yours sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Adam Godzik, Ph.D.
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee School of Medicine

TO: Ken Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

FR: Kurt Schwabe, Chair 
Executive Committee, School of Public Policy

RE: **[Comments] POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO
ALLEGATIONS OF RESEARCH MISCONDUCT**

Date: November 30th, 2025

The Executive Committee of the School of Public Policy has reviewed the **Policy and Procedures for Responding to Allegations of Research Misconduct**. Below we have identified a few issues to consider that may help address potential ambiguities/conflicts that may arise with how the policy is currently written.

- In Section II.12 (Plagiarism), plagiarism is defined as “the appropriation of another person’s ideas, processes, results, or words, without giving appropriate credit.” A number of widely-cited professional organizations (for example, the [American Psychological Association](#)) have issued guidelines regarding the need for disclosure of AI-generated materials. Since AI is not a person (to use the wording of the policy) but may be a source of material, it may be useful to clarify in this policy to what degree (if at all) the use of AI would constitute plagiarism.
- In Section VII.C.1 (Inquiry Committee). The policy currently states that “The Inquiry will be performed by one (1) to three (3) individual(s) appointed by the RIO.” By definition, a committee of only one person would not be a committee. In addition, the previous policy indicated that an inquiry committee “should consist of at least three individuals.” To avoid any one person having sole discretion as to an inquiry, clarification would be useful as to the justification for the reduction in number of committee members as well as how the number of people on the inquiry committee will be determined.
- In Section VIII.C.1 (Investigation Committee). Similar to the comment above, the policy currently states that “The Investigation Committee should consist of one (1) to three (3) individual(s).” By definition, a committee of only one person would not be a committee. In addition, the previous policy indicated that an investigation committee “should consist of at least three individuals.” To avoid any one person having sole discretion as to an inquiry, clarification would be useful as to the justification for the reduction in number of committee members as well as how the number of people on the inquiry committee will be determined.