



## *Academic Senate*

### **COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGE & TENURE**

December 1, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair  
Riverside Division

Fr: Jennifer Doyle  
Chair, Committee on Privilege & Tenure

**Re: [Systemwide Review] Proposal: Proposed Presidential Policy on Responding to Allegations of Research Misconduct (UC Research Misconduct Policy)**

The Committee on Privilege and Tenure has reviewed the Proposed University of California Presidential Policy on Responding to Allegations of Research Misconduct distributed for review on 9/25/25.

We have areas of concern and make recommendations for both.

The policy states that everyone on campus is responsible for research integrity. The scope includes “appointees, staff, students, postdoctoral scholars, and visiting scholars.” The policy which follows, as written, specifically mentions principal investigators but not others. When reading the policy it does not appear inclusive of all those conducting or participating in research. We thus recommend adding language which makes the responsibilities of all more explicit.

The language defining research integrity (Section III, Policy Text - p. 3 of 8 in the marked copy) is underdeveloped. This proposed revision calls for research which meets “the highest standards of honesty, accuracy, and objectivity.” The term objectivity has been wielded to mask subjective, political aims in direct conflict with what the data shows (e.g. the normalization of vaccine hesitation, or in racist/sexist pseudoscience). Instead of using the word “objective,” the standard today is to use language which concretizes integrity in research practice by naming what objective means, in practice. The original language (cut in favor of the word “objectivity”) was more useful. We recommend revising or reverting to the previous text.