

TO: Ken Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

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

RE: **[Comments] *Response to Committees' comments on Federally Required Changes to the Policy and Procedures for Responding to Allegations of Research Misconduct, Policy #529-900***

Date: March 5, 2026

The Executive Committee of the School of Public Policy has reviewed the ***Response to Committees' comments on Federally Required Changes to the Policy and Procedures for Responding to Allegations of Research Misconduct, Policy #529-900***.

We appreciate the revision of the policy to reflect our committee's concern regarding the potential for research misconduct as a result of using AI. This concern was addressed specifically with a statement in Section VIII.D.6, which states "A finding of Research Misconduct can be made whether the fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism is committed by an individual directly or through the use or assistance of other persons, entities, or tools, including artificial intelligence (AI)-based tools.

In light of this change, one comment is that Section II.12 still lists plagiarism as being defined as "the appropriation of another person's (emphasis added) ideas, processes, results, or words, without giving appropriate credit." It may be worth updating this section to match the updated statement in Section VIII.D.6 to avoid any conflict between different sections of the policy. Section II.12 currently defines plagiarism as only the appropriation of a person's (emphasis added) ideas, but plagiarism could also result from the appropriation of ideas based on Artificial Intelligence, as now reflected in the revised version of Section VIII.D.6.

Additionally, we also appreciate the revision of the policy to reflect a minimum of three members of committees (Sections VII.C.1 and VIII.C.1).