

FACULTY SENATE

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

FACULTY SENATE BILL 24-A-31

Approved by the Faculty Senate
April 17, 2024

BRIEF SUMMARY: This bill revises text of the Research section of Chapter 3 of the *Faculty Handbook* such that the policy and procedure is stricken from the Faculty Handbook and replaced with this text and a link to the official university policy.

**REVISING “FACULTY PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES: RESEARCH:
SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT”**

BE IT RESOLVED: Subject to the passage and approval of this bill, the content the subsection Scientific Misconduct in Chapter 3 of the *Faculty Handbook* will be amended by replacing the existing content with the content below.

1 Scientific Misconduct

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3 Science rests on a foundation of mutual trust. To an extraordinary degree, that trust is thoroughly
4 justified. However, scientists are subject to all human frailties and temptations, including at times
5 the temptation to engage in scientific misconduct. Though such misconduct is rare, once
6 misconduct is detected, it must be dealt with quickly and forcefully in order to sustain the
7 atmosphere of trust necessary for science. Not only must individual scientists behave in a
8 trustworthy manner, but must also take collective responsibility for detecting, judging, and
9 controlling scientific misconduct. This is not an easy task for an enterprise founded on integrity;
10 trust must not be replaced with suspiciousness. However, when there is ample reason to suspect
11 misconduct, that information should be brought to the attention of individuals responsible for
12 assuring that scientists connected with their institution are behaving responsibly. To that end,
13 Southeast Missouri State University has established a policy on scientific misconduct, has
14 designated an officer responsible for receiving allegations of scientific misconduct, and has
15 created a process for resolving such allegations.

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17 A crucial element of any fair and effective policy on scientific misconduct is a process that will
18 distinguish instances of genuine and serious misconduct from insignificant deviations from
19 acceptable practices. The policy adopted by Southeast Missouri State University will allow such
20 distinctions to be made in a manner that minimizes disruptiveness and protects the conscientious,
21 honest scientist from false, trivial, or mistaken accusations.

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23 This policy is available at: <https://semo.edu/finance-admin/policy-procedures.html>.

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Date and Version: 4/12/24
Handbook Section: Chapter 3 - Research
Proposed Change: Removal of content provided by other sources.
Source of Bill: Faculty Senate Documents Committee

Action	Date
Introduced to Senate	4/17/2024
Second Senate Meeting	4/17/2024
Faculty Senate Vote	4/17/2024
President's Review	4/24/2024
Posted to Faculty Handbook	