



SENATE OF COLLEGE COUNCILS
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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(512) 471-3166 • Fax: (512) 471-3408 • www.utsente.org

MEMORANDUM

VP RESEARCH OFFICE U.T. AUSTIN	
REC'D	MAR 23 2010
REFER TO _____	
HANDLE _____	
COMMENT & RETURN _____	
FILE OR DISPOSE _____	

TO: Provost Steve Leslie, Associate Vice-President for Research Dr. Robert Peterson, Vice-President of Research Juan Sanchez, Chair of Faculty Council Janet Staiger and Research Policy Chair Paula Poindexter.

FROM: Drew Finke, Policy Director, UT Senate of College Councils *DF*

DATE: March 21, 2010

RE: Senate of College Councils' Resolution In Support of Increasing Ethical Research Standards for Faculty Members

On the 11th of March, the Senate of College Councils passed Senate Resolution 615. SR 615 states Senate's support for "A Resolution Affirming Ethical Research Standards" passed by Faculty Council on January 25, 2010.

The resolution explains the importance of research for the University and describes what constitutes *ethical* research. Additionally, the resolution calls on students and faculty members to integrate the values expressed by the honor code into their research procedures.

By copy of this memo, I am notifying the Provost, Vice-President of Research, Associate Vice-President for Research, the Chair of Faculty Council, and the Research Policy Committee Chair. A copy of the resolution has been enclosed for your review. Please contact me if you have any questions or comments about this resolution by phone at 281.384.3287 or by e-mail at drewfinke@mail.utexas.edu.

cc: Charles Roeckle, Deputy to the President
Soncia Reagins-Lilly, Dean of Students
Melinda Sutton, Assistant to the Dean
Lauren Ratliff, President, Senate of College Councils
David Kanewske, Vice-President, Senate of College Councils
Carisa Nietzsche, Senate of College Councils Faculty Affairs Committee Chair, Author



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1 February 25, 2010

2 **S.R. 615 – In Support of Increasing Ethical Research Standards for Faculty Members**

3

4 **WHEREAS,** Research is central to the University’s mission and an integral component
5 of the University’s success and rank, and in order to improve UT’s
6 research efforts, we should “require that those who lead departments and
7 research centers meet a higher standard of excellence, accomplishment
8 and leadership ability”¹; and

9

10 **WHEREAS,** Ethical research standards include utilizing proper formatting and sources,
11 observing human rights based on state regulations, honestly gathering
12 information, and supervising student projects with integrity²; and

13

14 **WHEREAS,** Ethical standards and integrity are key to the fulfillment of the core values
15 of the University and the Honor Code, and it is important for “every
16 student, faculty member, and staff member [to] assume individual
17 responsibility for upholding the reputation, values, and academic integrity
18 of The University of Texas”³; and

19

20 **WHEREAS,** We can insure that this individual responsibility is upheld by faculty
21 members by “integrating the Honor Code⁴” into research endeavors by
22 encouraging individuals to maintain high ethical standards in research; and

23

24 **WHEREAS,** Enhancing ethical standards “promote[s] the aims of research, values that
25 are essential [to]collaborative work, accountab[ility] to the public, public
26 support, and [the emphasis of] moral and social values”⁵; and

27

28 **WHEREAS,** Graduate students currently must demonstrate their understanding of
29 ethical standards in research, as mandated by state and university policy,
30 by completing modules displaying their knowledge and awareness of
31 ethical policies; and

32

33 **WHEREAS,** No standards exist for faculty members who oftentimes orchestrate and
34 lead many research projects for undergraduate and graduate students; and

35

¹ Commission of 125, p. 16

² Poindexter, Paula; Faculty Council’s “Resolution Affirming Ethical Research Standards”

³ Commission of 125, p. 27

⁴ Commission of 125, p. 27

⁵ Besnik, David B. “What is Ethics in Research & Why is It Important?”

<<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/resources/bioethics/whatis.cfm>>

35 **WHEREAS,** The University’s Faculty Council passed a “Resolution Affirming Ethical
36 Research Standards” on January 25, 2010 that encourages the promotion
37 of ethical standards in research to faculty members in order to lead to
38 “research excellence at the University of Texas at Austin [that] can only
39 be achieved when the foundation is built on integrity and transparency”⁸;
40 now, therefore be it

41
42 **RESOLVED,** That the Senate of College Councils supports the resolution passed in
43 Faculty Council that promotes upholding ethical standards for individuals
44 pursuing and coordinating research; and be it further

45
46 **RESOLVED,** That the Senate of College Councils encourages the adoption of the
47 aforementioned ethical standards for students, graduate students and
48 faculty members in order to further integrate the Honor Code into the
49 culture of the University; and be it further

50
51 **RESOLVED,** That this Resolution be sent to Provost Steven Leslie, Associate Vice-
52 President for Research Dr. Robert A. Peterson, Vice President of Research
53 Juan Sanchez, Chair of Faculty Council Janet Staiger, and Research Policy
54 Chair Paula Poindexter.

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56 **Authors:** Carisa Nietsche (Chair, Faculty Affairs Committee, Senate of College Councils)
57 Jonathan Dau (At-Large, Curriculum Committee, Senate of College Councils)
58 Jordan Humphreys (At-Large, Multimedia and Publicity Committee, Senate of College Councils)

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61 **Sponsors:** Students for Academic Integrity Committee
62 Research Ad-Hoc Committee
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⁸ Poindexter, Paula; Faculty Council’s “Resolution Affirming Ethical Research Standards”