



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

SPONSOR: John Challis, Vice President, Research and Associate Provost

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DATE: November 20th, 2006

AGENDA ITEM: 4(d)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

University of Toronto Framework to Address Allegations of Research Misconduct

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs reviews research policies on behalf of the Academic Board. The Academic Board is required by its terms of reference to consider research policies and forward recommendations to the Governing Council.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN: None

HIGHLIGHTS:

As part of an ongoing review process to ensure that University policies remain consistent with best practices and the guidelines of the Tri-Councils, University and NSERC representatives have worked together to create the *University of Toronto Framework to Address Allegations of Research Misconduct* (the “Framework”). The Framework takes the following into account:

- an educational strategy to promote integrity;
- identification of a central point of contact as the Office of the Vice-President, Research and Associate Provost; and,
- defined timelines for processing complaints.

NSERC has reviewed and accepted the Framework on behalf of each of the Tri-Councils. Together with the existing Policy, the Framework is deemed by them to meet all of their requirements for an institutional policy on integrity in research.

Application: The Framework applies to all of the University’s full-time and part-time faculty, staff and students (excluding undergraduate students doing research for credit, whose obligations are covered under the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*) and any Policy and represents a

minimum person (including but not limited to clinical faculty, visiting professors, and post-doctoral fellows) who conducts research at or under the auspices of the University.

Effect on Existing Policies: The Policy remains unchanged and in force. The Framework replaces all existing divisional guidelines under the Policy and represents a minimum standard for compliance with prevailing best practices and Tri-Council guidelines. Through modification of the Framework's definition of research misconduct, divisions may propose amendments to the scope of the Framework to enhance its relevance to their own research circumstances and the norms applicable to their disciplines. Any amendments would be made in consultation with, and with the approval of, the Office of the Vice-President Research and Associate Provost.

The Framework must be read in conjunction with existing University policies, including but not limited to the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*, the *Policy on Conflict of Interest Academic Staff*, the *Policy on Research Involving Human Subjects*, and the *Policy on Ethical Conduct In Research*, and any other applicable policy. Depending on the circumstances, aspects of research misconduct may be dealt with pursuant to such other policies in addition to or instead of the Framework.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS: None

RECOMMENDATION:

For Information