

Procedures for Dealing with and Reporting Possible Misconduct in Science

1. Allegations of misconduct should be reported to the Dean of the College, the Associate Dean of the College, or the Academic Director of the Science Center, who will treat any allegation as a confidential matter. If the Dean, Associate Dean, or Director determines that the concern is indeed one of the possible misconduct in research, he/she will discuss the inquiry and investigation procedures with the individual who has questioned the integrity of the research. The individual may then choose to make a formal allegation and/or the Dean, Associate Dean, or Director may decide that there is sufficient cause to warrant an inquiry. If an inquiry is to be initiated, the Dean of the College will be notified, since he/she is the person who must appoint the inquiry committee.

2. Once a formal allegation has been made, an inquiry to gather factual information will be initiated. The inquiry will be conducted by a committee consisting of the Dean or Associate Dean or Academic Director of the Science Center with three to five additional members who have the appropriate backgrounds to judge the issues being raised. Committee members will be appointed by the Dean, may be from within or outside the Wellesley community, and must have no real or apparent conflicts of interest bearing on the question. Standing committees that deal with research issues (e.g. IRB, IACUC) will be used as one source for members of an inquiry committee. The inquiry will ordinarily be completed within 60 days. All specific requirements concerning timing, reporting, documentation, and confidentiality as described in the PHS Final Rule on Misconduct in Science will be met.

3. If the inquiry determines that a formal investigation is warranted, such an investigation will be initiated within 30 days. The purpose of the investigation will be to explore further the allegations and determine whether misconduct has been committed. The investigative committee will be appointed by the Dean, using the same criteria of scientific expertise and lack of personal relationship or conflict of interest with the parties involved. The investigation will ordinarily be completed within 120 days. All specific requirements concerning timing, reporting, documentation, and confidentiality as described in the PHS Final Rule on Misconduct in Science will be met.

4. If an allegation of misconduct is substantiated by the investigation, the matter will be turned over to the President, who will determine what appropriate sanctions to impose.

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