

**POLICY AND PROCEDURES
FOR RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS OF SCIENTIFIC OR OTHER
MISCONDUCT IN FUNDED RESEARCH**

Claflin University (CU) is committed to maintaining truth in its research, creative and sponsored programs activities. This policy applies to all administrators, faculty, staff and students in the performance of scholarly and creative activity and research conducted at CU whether performed under external or internal funding.

This policy is not meant to restrain academic research or other spon [(s)-(he)4 3 0 Td [(ot)-2 (he)4 (r)]TJ

Allegations of Misconduct

All University family members are encouraged to report research or other sponsored programs misconduct if and when they believe sufficient and substantive evidence exists. No individual will be subjected to personal and institutional reprisals when they, in good faith, report alleged misconduct. Such persons will be protected, to the maximum extent possible.

Information about charges of alleged misconduct in research will only be disclosed to the appropriate CU and federal or state authorities or as otherwise required by law.

Individuals must be advised in writing in a timely fashion of the nature of an allegation when he/she has an allegation related to research misconduct directed at them. The individual must be afforded confidential treatment to the extent possible and a prompt and thorough investigation consistent with any applicable collective bargaining agreement, or other university policies and procedures. The individual shall have the right to have a representative of the group present when the individual meets with the representatives of CU or any inquiry or investigative bodies in connection with the allegation made.

The Associate Vice Provost for Research and Vice Provost for Research are responsible for coordinating and implementing this policy, disseminating this policy to all faculty and to others involved in research or creative endeavors, maintaining all documents and records relating to this policy, and obtaining and keeping current any and all assurances of compliance with Federal and state regulations pertaining to misconduct.

Protection of the Whistleblower and the Responder

CU will protect the privacy of those who report misconduct in good faith to the maximum extent possible. If requested by the whistleblower, his/her anonymity will be honored by the institution during the allegation assessment or inquiry within applicable policies and regulations and state and local laws, if any. The whistleblower will be advised that if the matter is referred to an investigation committee and the whistleblower's testimony is required, anonymity may no longer be guaranteed.

An allegation of misconduct must be submitted in writing to the Associate Vice

Within thirty (30) days after the issuance of a report by the Inquiry Committee concluding that a Formal Investigation of the Allegations of possible Scientific Misconduct is warranted, a three (3) member Research Investigation Hearing Committee shall be convened by the Associate Vice Provost for Research and Vice Provost for Research. This Committee must be composed of members who have the appropriate expertise to carry out a thorough search for and an authoritative evaluation of the relevant evidence. The committee may include members or consultants from outside the university committee having appropriate substantive expertise if such expertise is not present within the university community or if a conflict of interest could arise from appointing a member of the university community to evaluate the evidence.

The Respondent (s) shall be given at least seven (7) days advance notice of the date or dates on which the hearing shall be conducted. The committee will examine all documentation and will provide the Respondent (s) with the opportunity to present evidence and testimony in defense of the allegations.

The Investigation will be concluded within one hundred twenty (120) days of the appointment of the Investigation Hearing Committee. The committee shall prepare the final report, make the report available for comment by the subject of the Investigation and submit the report to ORI within 120 days. If the committee cannot complete its report within 120 days of its initiation and the report of possible Scientific Misconduct involves a Research project that is funded by the PHS, the Committee must submit a written request to the Office of Research Integrity (it)10 /it(O(r)511 (e)63 (t)- a)

Institutional Actions

A. If the investigation does not confirm the alleged unethical scientific practices:

The Associate Vice Provost for Research and Vice Provost for Research must take appropriate action to ensure that the reputation of the respondent(s) is cleared of suspicion.

Other interested parties such as collaborators, supervisors and agencies sponsoring or funding the research, must be notified that the respondent(s) was absolved of wrong doing by the investigation.

The respondent must be given the opportunity of having a written notice of clearance sent to the relevant members of the faculty from the Research Investigative Hearing Committee.

B. If the investigation confirms the alleged unethical scientific practice:

The actions may include:

Withdrawal or correction of all pending or published abstracts and papers emanating from the research where scientific misconduct was found.

Removal of the responsible person from the particular project, letter of reprimand, special monitoring of future work, probation, suspension, salary reduction, or initiation of steps leading to possible rank reduction or termination of employment, restitution of funds as appropriate.

C. Allegations Not Made in Good Faith

Associate Vice Provost for Research and Vice Provost for Research will determine whether the whistleblower's allegations of scientific misconduct were made in good faith. If an allegation was not made in good faith, the Associate Vice Provost for Research and Vice Provost for Research will determine whether any administrative action should be taken against the whistleblower.

References: NIH, A Guide to the Handling of Scientific Misconduct Alleb [(R)-7k06/uVid (.)]TJ ()Tj

Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 50, Subpart A – Responsibility of Public Health Services Awardee and Applicant Institutions for Dealing with and Reporting Possible Misconduct in Science.

Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Research Integrity – Model Policy and Procedures for Responding to Allegations of Scientific Misconduct;
<http://ori.dhhs.gov/models.htm>.