

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
Chicago Springfield Urbana-Champaign

Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs
377 Henry Administration Building
506 South Wright Street
Urbana, IL 61801

Mrinalini C. Rao
Vice President

March 6, 2009

Professor Elliot Kaufman
Chair, University Senates Conference
1012 MBRB, MC-669

Dear Elliot:

As you know, last September I appointed an ad hoc University-wide committee to review the University's *Policy and Procedures on Academic Integrity in Research and Publication*. That committee, chaired by Professor Lizanne DeStefano, has completed its work. I greatly appreciate the time and diligence the members, including you representing the USC, devoted to this important matter. The committee's recommended changes to the *Policy* are attached, along with a list of the committee membership.

In my charge to the committee, I noted the central importance of academic integrity in research and publication and the essential requirement that we have a sound policy and procedures in this area. The University's current *Policy* was adopted in 1991 based on recommendations of a University-wide committee, with subsequent review and endorsement by the executive committees of the campus senates and the University Senates Conference.

The current *Policy* has served the University well for nearly two decades. However, I decided to appoint a review committee because of the importance of the *Policy*, the increasing national attention to integrity issues in academic research, and recommendations by NIH and other national funding agencies urging institutions to review and strengthen their academic integrity policies as necessary. The committee met on several occasions to review our current *Policy* alongside recommendations from NIH and other agencies and against our institutional experience with academic integrity situations and our review procedures.

As we have done in other committees recently, having a representative from the USC participate in the deliberations, is of added value both in terms of content and timeliness. With this letter I am formally asking the USC to carefully consider the committee's recommendations and in turn to ask the senate executive committees on each campus to do the same. Professor DeStefano has offered to meet with the USC and the senate executive committees to discuss the report, the review process followed by the committee, and the recommended changes; and I am thankful for her kind gesture.

Academic Integrity Review Report – USC

March 3, 2009

Page 2

Ideally, and if possible, it would be desirable to have consensus among the senates and the USC on the proposed changes to the *Policy* by the start of the 2009-2010 academic year. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Mrinalini C. Rao

Attachments

cc: Harry Berman

Larry Danziger

Ravi Iyer

Members, Academic Integrity Policy Review Committee

**Ad hoc University-wide committee to review the University's
“Policy and Procedures on Academic Integrity in Research and Publication”**

Pam Chen

Associate University Counsel, UIC.

Lizanne DeStefano (Committee Chair)

Professor, Department of Educational Psychology, UIUC;
Professor, Department of Kinesiology & Community Health, UIUC;
Director, Illinois STEM Initiative;
Executive Associate Dean for Research and Administration, UIUC.

Howard Guenther

Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, UIUC.

Elliot Kaufman

Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, UIC;
Secretary of the UIC Senate and Chair of the Executive Committee; and
Chair and Executive Committee Member, University Senates Conference.

Melanie Loots

Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, UIUC.

Larry Mann

Executive Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, UA.

Keith W. Miller

Professor, Department of Computer Science, UIS.

Lynn Pardie, Professor

Department of Psychology, UIS ; and
Associate Vice Chancellor for Graduate Education and Research, UIS.

Brenda Russell

Professor, Department of Physiology and Biophysics; and
Executive Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, UIC.

Larry Tobacman

Professor of Medicine and Director, Medical Scientist Training Program, UIC; and
College of Medicine Senior Associate Dean for Research, UIC.