

## Community Comments Previously Submitted Regarding an Approved Administrative Policy

### Policy on Research Misconduct (05.103.3)

The University of Rhode Island's Policy on *Research Misconduct* (05.103.3) was approved with an effective date of September 24, 2025. Prior to approval, the draft policy was made available for community comments from July 22 through August 4, 2025. Below are the comments submitted, together with responses that may be provided in whole or in part by the policy owner, the Administrative Policy Committee (APC), and/or policy development staff.

Prior community comments and corresponding responses relating to approved administrative policies are posted for 30 days following approval on the University's Administrative Policy Development web page (<https://web.uri.edu/policies/administrative-development/>). Following this posting period, submitted comments remain available upon request by contacting [policies-group@uri.edu](mailto:policies-group@uri.edu).

Community Comments	Response
<p>It appears that details of the Inquiry and Investigation processes are being removed from the policy (pp 8-10, 11-12). It is not clear about what new steps for carrying out the Inquiry and Investigation processes will replace these deleted policies. The definitions of these processes suggest that these procedures will "accompany this policy" yet do not appear to be available as part of this review (at least via the links in Rhody Today).</p> <p>Minor comment: In definitions p3 Research Misconduct (c), it is not clear if the new sentence indicates that Plagiarism excludes either "limited self-plagiarism" or <u>any extent</u> of self plagiarism at all. This distinction is important if a researcher submits nearly identical manuscripts as separate publications, which I would not consider to be "limited". (I have encountered that as a reviewer; the guilty authors were not affiliated with URI.)</p> <p>Minor correction: In definitions p2 "Inquiry", the existing words "meet" and "follow" are correct as-is because the subject is plural, "info...gathering and fact-finding". ("X meets", "X and Y meet").</p>	<p>The existing policy included content better suited for the policy's Procedures, which are developed independently from the policy development process. Principal changes include: the Assessment as an official stage; transcription of interviews; and details regarding report components.</p> <p>We believe the definition makes clear that, in accordance with the PHS definition, self-plagiarism is wholly excluded from the definition of Research Misconduct. For maximum clarity, we have altered the sequence of those exclusions.</p> <p>The definition of "Inquiry" is grammatically correct as-is (a compound subject treated as a single unit).</p>