



# WPI

# Proposal for a Revised Research Misconduct Policy

Committee on Governance



# Need

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- Science is built on trust – unethical behavior can destroy the reputation of laboratories and universities
- Funding agencies require a single clear research misconduct policy to be in place
- Current research misconduct policies:
  - Faculty approved version (Approved by the Faculty; 1/23/2014)
  - Trustees approved version (Approved by Trustees; 12/2013)
- Recent feedback from Office of Research Integrity
- Good practice to review policy periodically

# Process Used to Develop Proposed Policy Specialized for WPI

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- Working Group Members:
  - 3 Trustees
    - Jack Mollen, Joan Szkutak, Marni Hall
  - 3 Faculty members
    - Mark Richman, Kris Boudreau, Glenn Gaudette
- Legal Counsel
  - From University Counsel (David Bunis):
- Working Documents:
  - Faculty approved version;
  - Trustees approved version; and
  - Commonly used ORI sample policy

# Issues to Address:

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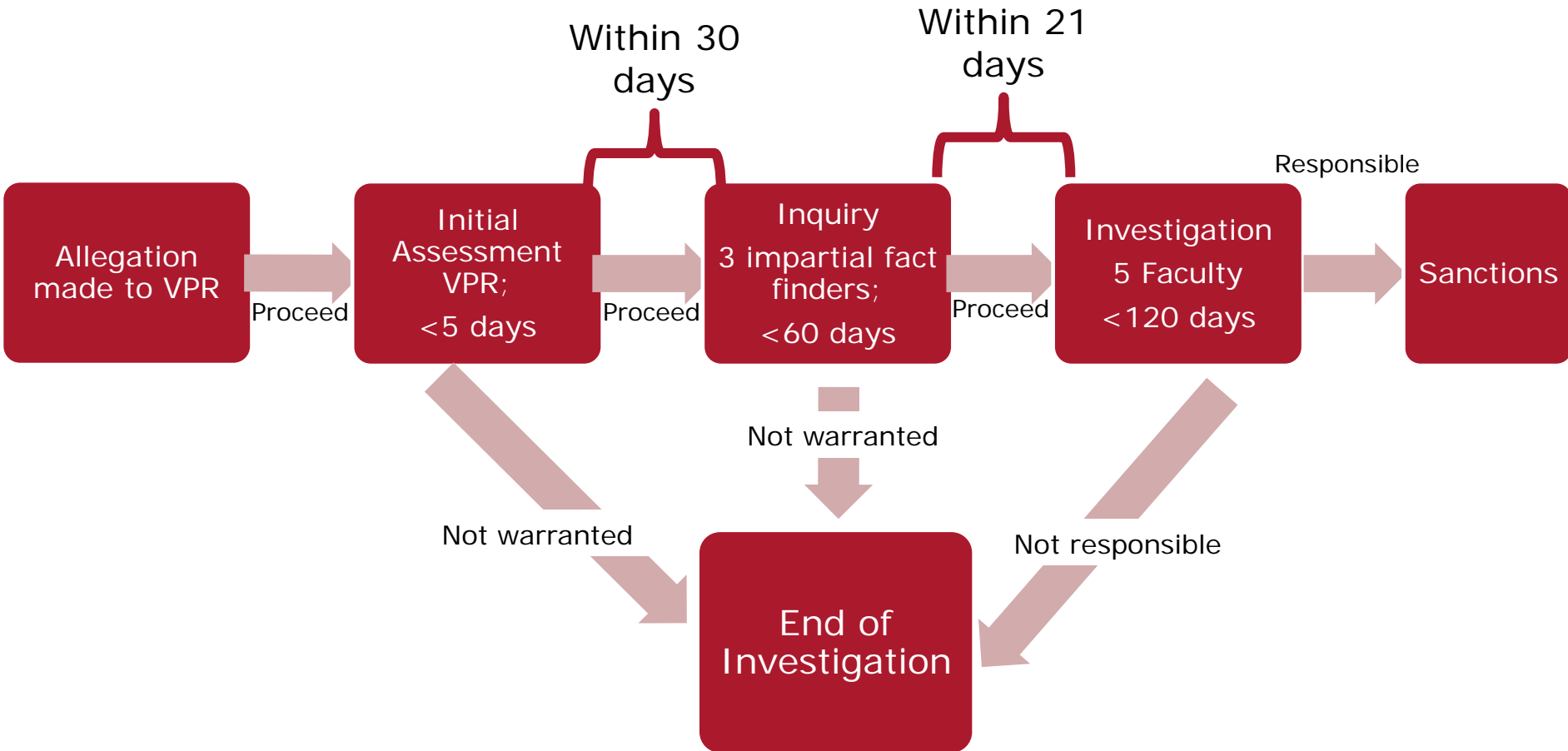
- Must include assurance that appropriate interim action can be taken by the Institution, if needed.
- Must properly define research misconduct
- Must include statement that investigation members have no conflict of interest with Respondent, Complainant, or witnesses.
- Final findings must be reported to ORI
- Must apply to faculty, staff, and students
- Initial allegation need not be in writing

# Major Differences Between Proposed Policy and Current Policy

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- Includes students, fellows and staff
- Improved definitions section
- Duty to report section
- Provost is “deciding official”
- No longer are there restrictions on the Provost’s decision in Investigation phase
- All disciplinary actions can be appealed
- Additional faculty committee involved in appeal of revocation of tenure.

# Process



# Results of the Investigation Committee

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- If found responsible
  - Document facts, analysis and conclusions
  - Recommend sanctions
  - Provide report and recommended sanctions to VPR
  - VPR reviews and forwards to Provost with recommendations
  - Provost meets with committee, makes a finding including sanctions
- Appeals
  - If sanctions include revocation of tenure
    - Can be appealed to Board of Trustees (BoT)
    - Chair of BoT, with SoF, appoint 5 member review committee
  - Other sanctions can be appealed to President