


PRESIDENTIAL POLICY MEMORANDUM NO. 295

To: All Virginia Tech Employees and Students
From: Timothy D. Sands 
Date: May 4, 2015
Subject: Recognition of "Self-plagiarism" as Unethical Behavior (not Research Misconduct)

Approved by the Commission on Research:	April 8, 2015
Approved by the University Council:	May 4, 2015
Approved by the President:	May 4, 2015
Effective Date:	Upon Approval

University Council approved a resolution to recognize "self-plagiarism" as unethical conduct in Policy 13020, the Faculty Handbook, and the Graduate Catalog.

Following is the text of the resolution.

WHEREAS, The Commission on Research (COR) exists to represent the issues and concerns associated with the research mission of the university; and

WHEREAS, Policy 13020 Misconduct in Research does not recognize "self-plagiarism" as research misconduct; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech, recognizes "self-plagiarism" as unethical behavior and awareness should be raised; and

WHEREAS, the faculty handbook has an established procedure for handling claims of unethical behavior and this resolution adds self-plagiarism as an unethical behavior; and

WHEREAS, policy revisions are intended to clarify the expectations for faculty members to assure the integrity of research conducted at Virginia Tech; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revised policy has been vetted and endorsed by the Vice President for Research, the Dean of the Graduate School, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies, Commission on Faculty Affairs, Faculty Senate and Committee on Faculty Ethics;

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THEREFORE be it resolved that Policy 13020, Policy on Misconduct in Research be revised to incorporate language which recognizes "self-plagiarism" as unethical behavior and the 2015 Faculty Handbook and Graduate Catalog be revised to incorporate language which recognizes "self-plagiarism" as unethical behavior.

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