



Responsible Conduct of Research Strategic Plan April, 2017

Introduction

Guided by an ongoing strategic planning process, Grand Valley State University (GVSU) has positioned itself to achieve excellence at all levels and to become one of the nation's premiere comprehensive universities. Consistent with University principles, the strategic plan developed for the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) at GVSU is grounded in the principles of liberal education. The RCR Strategic Plan offers a framework that will enhance research and scholarly activities and provides GVSU with a guide to meet federal mandates and achieve, sustain, and enhance a best practice research environment.

The RCR Strategic Plan articulates a vision for GVSU as a Carnegie classification "Masters Large" public institution that promotes research and scholarship that enhances teaching. The RCR Strategic Plan also contains statements of mission and values that guide GVSU's culture, attitudes, and behavior at all levels, i.e., administrative, faculty, staff, and student. Finally, the Plan includes goals and specific objectives, so that progress and effectiveness can be measured and reported to all stakeholders.

RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT of RESEARCH STRATEGIC PLAN 2016-2021 (PROPOSED)

Grand Valley State University is a "Master's Large" public institution with a local, regional, and state commitment; global perspective; and grounding in the tradition of liberal education" (Grand Valley State University, Strategic Plan 2016-2021 (GVSU SP)). Teaching in the general arts and sciences and professional degree programs takes a liberal education approach and "rests on scholarship and the open exchange of ideas" (GVSU SP). The University is committed "to educating students to become competent professionals, able scholars and responsible citizens" (GVSU SP). Furthermore, Grand Valley faculty, as able teacher-learner mentors, collaborate with staff and students in the development of "skills of inquiry, reflection, critical analysis, dialogue and expression" (GVSU SP).

Public support and recognition of the importance of research has increased dramatically over the past several decades. With growing public support for, and interest in, research there is a parallel increased concern about the way it is conducted. For example, in a survey of over 1,700 researchers, 33% reported engaging in so-called "questionable research practices" (Martinson, Anderson & deVries, 2005), despite their clear obligations to conduct their research in a responsible manner. "Responsible conduct of research is simply good citizenship applied to professional life." (Steneck, 2007). However, the expectations and best practices of good

citizenship in research may not be widely known or consistently exercised. A recent study by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Office of Research Integrity (ORI) estimated that there were more than 2,300 observations of likely research misconduct per year just in research funded by DHHS (Titus, Wells, & Rhodes, 2008). Such data suggest the need for training and education in the responsible conduct of research. Moreover, a growing, and often changing, body of local, state, and federal regulations makes it a challenge for researchers to keep pace with best practice standards. Finally, the federal government via The America COMPETES Act (August 9, 2007) mandated that the NSF and the NIH *require* institutions in receipt of funding from these agencies to provide appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research for undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, trainees, fellows, participants and scholars. For those reasons, Grand Valley State University will be fully engaged in the promotion of responsible and ethical conduct of research in all disciplines at all levels.

Mission

Grand Valley State University is committed to ensuring the highest ethical and professional standards in scholarly endeavors, including respect for all participants and credit for all contributors. Training in Responsible Conduct of Research is a critical step in imparting best practice standards for GVSU faculty, staff, and students as they shape their careers and contribute to their professions and society.

Vision

Grand Valley State University will become excellent in abiding by the accepted tenets of Responsible Conduct of Research practices, grounded in the principles of liberal education. GVSU will educate undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff to become a community of life-long learners committed to ethical principles based on respect, beneficence, and justice.

Value Statements

Excellence

Faculty, staff, and students will exhibit excellence in their conduct of research and scholarly activities. Excellence entails following best practices across disciplines in all aspects of scholarly activities, such as design, conduct, collaboration, mentoring, and accurate reporting of results and contribution credits.

Inquiry

GVSU is committed to the liberal ideals of critical and imaginative inquiry and lifelong learning through instructing, involving, and mentoring the next generation of researchers, scholars, and creative problem solvers. GVSU supports the ongoing development of the knowledge, skill, and disposition related to the responsible conduct of research.

Collaboration

GVSU is committed to promoting collaboration among faculty, staff, and students in scholarly activities across disciplines and between institutions. GVSU, as a community, values the creative

process that enhances scholarly excellence through sharing knowledge, learning, and building consensus. Collaboration promotes greater transparency and ethical decision making in scholarly activities.

Transparency

An open and transparent process is indispensable in ensuring the highest quality of all scholarship activities at GVSU. Access to all relevant procedures and information facilitates accountability through effective review, replication, and collaboration amongst broader communities of interest.

Integrity

GVSU is committed to creating an environment that promotes responsible conduct of research by embracing standards of integrity, honesty, trustworthiness, and lawfulness.

Responsibility

Responsible research is encouraged and guided by the research culture at GVSU. Those engaged in scholarship at GVSU are entrusted with certain responsibilities, as demonstrated by practices such as: 1) respect for human and animal subjects, community stakeholders, and the environment; 2) good stewardship of public and private resources; 3) appropriate acknowledgment of collaborators; and 4) responsible communication of research.

Accountability Measures

With connections to the RCR program values, accountability measures are an essential component of program success and on-going improvement. These measures will ensure compliance with federal guidelines.

Measures of RCR Training/Education Effectiveness

The RCR Advisory Board is tasked with planning effective training/education programs for faculty, staff, and student research.

Efficiency

The RCR Advisory Board and collaborative partners (e.g., Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence (CSCE)) will provide programming that is relevant, timely, accessible and convenient.

Stewardship

The RCR Advisory Board, and collaborative partners, will be prudent stewards of all resources it receives.

Public/Private Partnership

RCR programs will satisfy best training/education practices and be compliant with guidelines for any partner institution or funding entities.

Strategic Priorities

The following priorities and objectives are consistent with our values and will allow Grand Valley's RCR program to accomplish its mission and move toward its vision. Specific programs

that emanate from these goals will: 1) cover subject matter recommended by ORI and other public/private partners; 2) ensure compliance with federal, state, and local agencies that require RCR training for recipients of funding; 3) involve GVSU faculty and staff as instructors/mentors; 4) involve appropriate instruction for all career stages (e.g. faculty, staff, graduate student, undergraduate student). These goals will provide a way to measure program outcomes and report progress. Responsibility for achieving these goals will rest with the RCR Advisory Board and collaborative partners.

Strategic Priority Area One

Provide a permanent and officially recognized infrastructure for the development, implementation, and supervision of Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training/education programs for faculty, staff, and students.

Objective 1.1: Maintain a permanent RCR Advisory Board to develop, implement, and supervise university-wide RCR programs. The Board will consist of appropriate faculty, staff, and representatives from CSCE, selected by the Provost's office and/or designee and will be chaired by a faculty member of the committee. The chair will report to appropriate administrative and/or faculty governance bodies regarding RCR activities.

Strategic Priority Area Two

Promote the development of the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviors consistent with excellence in responsible conduct of research.

Objective 2.1: Provide and maintain a university-sponsored online RCR training program for faculty, staff, and students.

Objective 2.2: Provide an interdisciplinary one-day intensive university-sponsored RCR workshop every other year for faculty, staff, and students. The RCR Advisory Board will be responsible for the planning and implementation of this workshop, which will cover all major aspects of RCR training.

Objective 2.3: Certify department-level, discipline-specific courses and interdisciplinary programs that include RCR-related content for formal inclusion in the university's RCR training program.

Strategic Priority Area Three

Ensure compliance with federal, state, and local agencies that require RCR training for recipients of funding.

Objective 3.1: Maintain a formal policy for attaining certification in RCR training at GVSU.

Objective 3.2: Continuously monitor NSF and NIH RCR training/education mandates, and ensure that RCR training at GVSU fulfills these requirements.

Objective 3.3: Monitor and certify program participation/completion, and create a central database of this information.

References

Martinson BC, Anderson MS, & de Vries R, Scientist behaving badly, *Nature*, 435: 737-738, 2005.

Steneck NH (2007), *ORI, Introduction to the Responsible Conduct of Research*, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC.

Titus SL, Wells JA, & Rhoades LJ, Repairing research integrity, *Nature*, 453(7198): 980-982, 2008.