

Code of Ethics

Illinois Institute of Technology

Having chosen to associate ourselves with IIT, we— Students, faculty, administrators, trustees, staff, alumni, donors, and suppliers (students should be first)—have become beneficiaries of what our predecessors made and stewards for our successors. For each of us, the benefit derived from association with IIT depends not only on our own conduct, but also the conduct of others. If we each do as we should, all associated with IIT should have reason for satisfaction or pride. (The student focus group took out pride and put in satisfaction, the trustee focus group took out satisfaction and put back pride) If even a few fail, the benefits of association will be less and we will pass to our successors less than we might otherwise have. This code of ethics should help us all conduct ourselves as we should:

1. Academic excellence. Because IIT's reputation depends in large part on the quality of the students it graduates, the research it performs, and the scholarship it publishes, we should help students, faculty, and researchers do the best work they can—and attract to IIT those who can do even better. (Concern that this section focuses too much on IIT's reputation. Is this what the focus of this section should be on?)

2. Academic freedom. We should give every student a fair opportunity to learn, every faculty member a fair opportunity to teach, and every member of the IIT community a fair opportunity to explore, enlarge, and evaluate human invention and knowledge.

3. Academic Integrity . We should maintain appropriate standards of accuracy, reliability, credit, candor, and confidentiality in our own work, whether for publication or internal use in class or office. (should something about cheating be mentioned?)

4. Human dignity. Because every member of the IIT community deserves the respect due every human person, we should treat every member of the IIT community fairly—avoiding dishonesty, deception, harassment, unjust discrimination, and intimidation in our own conduct and not tolerating them in the conduct of others.

4.1. Mutual respect. Because we recognize the contribution to education, invention, research, scholarship, and governance that differences in perspective, experience, and history offer, we should maintain an environment in which those differences can flourish individually and combine productively in common projects.

4.2. Community and criticism. Because opinions in any healthy community tend to differ, with wisdom never anyone's monopoly, we should consult those whom our decisions may affect; should suggest to appropriate persons opportunities for improving IIT when we think we see them, offering our suggestions in ways unlikely to distract from merit; accept the dissent of others

from our views as an opportunity to learn; and (taking out should suggested by Bruce Fisher) protect dissenters from mistreatment their dissent seems to have provoked.

5. Institutional responsibility. When holding any office or other position of special trust within IIT, we shall always act in good faith, to serve the best interests of IIT.

5.1. Stewardship. We should use IIT resources responsibly, taking care to know what laws and other regulations apply.

5.2. Conflict of Interest. We should avoid conflict of interest that could undermine our ability to make decisions in the best interests of IIT.

5.3. Conduct of others. When we observe what seems to be others taking IIT resources for personal use or otherwise misusing them, we should so inform them and, should that not end the apparent misuse, notify an appropriate authority.

6. Personal integrity. If we believe our use of IIT resources morally right but illegal, we should consult appropriate legal authority within IIT to confirm that belief, to explore legal alternatives, and to define legal consequences. If, after consulting appropriate legal authority, we still believe the use of resources morally right but illegal, we may act on that belief, provided we take care that IIT will suffer neither legal liability nor other substantial harm as a result. (Check with Michael about this item and the circumstances surrounding how it became included in the code, but might want to take it out of the document entirely.)

7. Civic responsibility. We should conduct IIT activities in ways that at least preserve the quality of life in our neighborhood and should, in addition, , improve our neighborhood, city, state, country, and world.

8. Work-life concerns. Because everyone associated with IIT should have a life that includes commitments outside IIT, we should conduct IIT activities in ways allowing everyone associated with IIT to honor outside commitments properly without slighting IIT.

9. Sense of pride and ownership. We should give each member of the IIT community—administrators, alumni, donors, faculty, staff, students, suppliers, and trustees—opportunities to help improve IIT. We should not take complaints about IIT outside until we have given those at IIT a fair opportunity to resolve them properly. (Exploratory is concerned about the conflict between item nine and item 2, academic freedom. The current wording is likely to have a chilling factor on academic freedom/free speech. We might need more vague wording. Vivian Weil has sent an email to the administration focus group (who first raised the need for something addressing airing complaints outside of the IIT community) asking for their input.

How to Use this Code

Exploratory Committee members did not have the chance to address this section during the 9/1/2006 meeting. Will be addressed in future meetings.

This code consists of a preamble and nine sections. The preamble explains the purpose of the code and provides a principle for applying the general rules in the nine sections to specific situations: *interpret the rules so as to pass on to our successors an IIT at least as good as we found it*. Some sections include subsections. The rules in these subsections provide a *partial* interpretation of the section's general rule. Each subsection is a reminder of a domain of conduct requiring extra caution. This code is not a moral algorithm, a substitute for deliberation, or an ordinary regulation designed for external enforcement, but a guide to conscientious deliberation. It captures what we now believe is how we would like other members of the IIT community to act—and how we too are willing to act. This code is, of course, subject to revision in light of experience. Indeed, the IIT community should undertake a systematic review of it at least once a decade.

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