

IIT Code of Ethics

Changes Suggested by Student Focus Group (April 18, 2006)

Changes made to this draft are those discussed in the student focus group of April 18, 2006. Changes reflect those captured in the minutes and those which seemed to get a general consensus from focus group members. This document does not seek to show all changes suggested in the meeting.

Code of Ethics

Illinois Institute of Technology

Having chosen to associate ourselves with IIT, we—[administrators, alumni, donors, faculty, staff, students, and trustees \(changed to alphabetical order\)](#)—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 on the conduct of others. If we each do as we should, all associated with IIT should have reason for ~~pride~~ [\(something meaning "integrity", or "having the satisfaction of doing what is right"\)](#). 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 is intended to 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 shall help students, faculty, and researchers reach their potential—and to attract to IIT those who can do even better.

2. Academic freedom. We shall seek to ensure to every student a fair [and equal](#) opportunity to learn, to every faculty member a fair [and equal](#) opportunity to teach, and to every member of the IIT community a fair [and equal](#) opportunity to explore, enlarge, and evaluate human invention and knowledge.

3. Academic responsibility. We shall [strive](#) to maintain appropriate standards of accuracy, reliability, credit, candor, and confidentiality in our own work, whether for publication or internal use in class or office.

4. [Human dignity and respect.](#) [Because we recognise every member of the IIT community deserves the respect due every human being, we shall try to treat every member of the IIT community fairly, avoiding harassment, unjust discrimination, and intimidation in our own conduct and not tolerating them in the conduct of others. \(moved from 4.1\)](#) ~~Because we recognize the contribution to education, research, scholarship, and governance that differences in perspective, experience, and history offer, we shall seek to maintain an environment in which those differences can flourish individually and combine productively in common projects.~~

4.1 [Diversity.](#) [Because we recognize the contribution to education, research, scholarship, and governance that differences in perspective, experience, and history offer, we shall seek to maintain an environment in which those differences can flourish individually and](#)

combine productively in common projects.(moved from 4.0) ~~Because we recognise every member of the IIT community deserves the respect due every human being, we shall try to treat every member of the IIT community fairly, avoiding harassment, unjust discrimination, and intimidation in our own conduct and not tolerating them in the conduct of others.~~

4.2. Community and criticism. Because opinions in any healthy community tend to differ, with wisdom never anyone's monopoly, we shall consult those ~~associated with IIT~~ whom our decisions may affect; ~~shall suggest to appropriate persons opportunities for improving IIT when we think we see them, offering our suggestions in ways unlikely to distract from merit;~~(section moved to 5.3).shall accept the dissent of others from our views as an opportunity to learn; and shall protect dissenters from any mistreatment their dissent seems to have provoked.

5. Institutional responsibility. We shall use IIT resources prudently, taking care to know what laws and other regulations apply.

5.1 Responsibility for conduct in others. When we see what seems to be others taking IIT resources for personal use or otherwise misusing them, we shall so inform them, and, should that not end the apparent misuse, notify an appropriate authority

5.2 Institutional Responsibility. When holding an office or other position of special trust within IIT, we shall always act in good faith, exercising as much care as a prudent person in like circumstances should when seeking to serve IIT's best interests. (Moved from number 6)

5.3 (No title suggested) We shall suggest to appropriate persons opportunities for improving IIT when we think we see them, offering our suggestions in ways unlikely to distract from merit. (Moved from section 4.2)

76. Civic responsibility. We shall conduct activities in ways that do not reduce the quality of life in our surroundings and shall, in addition, , try to improve our society. ~~When holding an office or other position of special trust within IIT, we shall always act in good faith, exercising as much care as a prudent person in like circumstances would when seeking to serve IIT's best interests. (Moved to 5.2).~~

87. Work-life responsibility. Because it is good for everyone associated with IIT to have a life that includes commitments outside IIT, we shall seek to conduct IIT activities in ways allowing everyone associated with IIT to honor outside commitments properly without slighting IIT. (No specific wording suggested, but any revision should refer to alumni's life after graduation and how their actions in their work life reflect on IIT, so they should conduct themselves in a manner that reflects well on IIT as their alma mater)

89. Sense of pride and ownership. We shall try to provide each member of the IIT community—administration, alumni, donors, faculty, staff, and students (alphabetical order)—with opportunities to help improve IIT. We shall not take complaints about IIT outside until we

have given those at IIT a fair opportunity to resolve them properly. (1/2 of group thought the last sentence may need revision, such as turning it into an action. “We shall strive to resolve our differences internally.”)