

## Code of Ethics

Illinois Institute of Technology

As valued members of the IIT community, we—trustees, students, staff, faculty, donors, alumni, suppliers, and administrators—have become beneficiaries of what our predecessors created, as well as stewards of our successors. For each of us, the benefit derived from association with IIT depends on the conduct of others. If we each act appropriately, all IIT constituents should have reason for satisfaction (**pride?**). If even a few fail, the benefits of association will be diminished, and IIT's heritage will be lessened. (**Leave out preceding sentence?**) This code of ethics is intended to help us all conduct ourselves, as we should:

**1. Environment of Academic Excellence.** Because IIT's reputation depends in large part on the quality and character of the students it graduates, the research it performs, and the scholarship it publishes, we shall provide an environment where students, faculty, and researchers can excel.

**2. Academic freedom.** We will 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, access, and nurture human invention and knowledge.

**3. Academic responsibility.** We will 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.** Every member of the IIT community deserves the respect due every person. 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. We value diversity and are passionate about creating an environment where the synergies of diversity flourish and grow.

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

**4.2. Community and criticism.** Opinions in any healthy community tend to differ, with wisdom never anyone's monopoly. We shall consult those 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; shall accept the dissent of others from our views as an opportunity to learn; and shall protect dissenters from mistreatment their dissent seems to have provoked.

**5. Institutional responsibility.** When holding any office or position of trust within IIT, we shall act in good faith, always exercising at least as much care as an ordinarily prudent person in like circumstances would when seeking to serve the best interests of IIT.

**5.1. Stewardship.** We shall use IIT resources prudently, taking care to know what laws and other regulations apply.

**5.2. Conflict of Interest.** When acting on behalf of IIT, we shall avoid influences that may undermine the independence of our judgment, and/or disclose the influences to those who should know and seek means to annul their effect.

**5.3. Conduct of others.** When we observe what seem to be others taking IIT resources for personal use or otherwise misusing them, we shall so inform them and/or notify an appropriate authority if significance so warrants.

**6. Personal integrity.** Should we believe our use of IIT resources morally right but illegal, we shall consult an appropriate legal authority within IIT to confirm that belief, to explore legal alternatives, and to define legal consequences. If, after consulting the 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. **(The preceding focus groups had problems with the wording of this provision. So far we have not found wording that is acceptable. What do you think about this provision?)**

**7. Civic responsibility.** We shall conduct IIT activities in ways that preserve and enhance the quality of life in our neighborhood and shall, in addition, when opportunities present themselves, improve our neighborhood, city, state, country, and world.

**8. Work-life concerns.** Understanding that those associated with IIT have other commitments and responsibilities outside IIT, we shall strive to 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 shall provide each member of the IIT community— trustees, students, staff, faculty, donors, alumni, suppliers, and administrators —with opportunities to help improve IIT. **(1) IIT should be given the first opportunity to access a complaint. (2) We should not take complaints about IIT outside until we have given those at IIT a fair opportunity to resolve them properly. (Do you prefer the wording of (1) or (2) or do you think neither is needed?)**

**10. Suppliers. It is our expectation that (Do we need preceding phrase?) All supply chain partners will uphold the same ethical standards as we uphold ourselves. Do we need this provision at all since suppliers are mentioned in Provisions #1 and #9 above?**

**Contact person: Vivian Weil, CSEP X7-3472, weil @iit.edu**