

RESEARCH POLICY

Policy Statements

This policy applies to research undertaken by faculty, staff, and students of Nile University. All faculty, staff, student employees, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, as well as non-employees who participate or intend to participate in teaching and/or research or scholarship projects at Nile University are bound by this policy.

The transmission of knowledge and conduct of scholarly inquiry are central and complementary functions of the University. They can be carried out effectively only if scholars are guaranteed certain freedoms and accept corresponding responsibilities. Nile University is committed to the principle of research freedom, meaning the freedom to use scientific means to investigate, discuss, and debate issues and phenomena. The University supports research freedom for its faculty and students, subject to legal and ethical constraints. Research develops new knowledge about the past, the present, and the future. It aids learning about professional changes and new technologies. It explores, analyzes, interprets, and proves scientific theorems and philosophical propositions. While it is recognized that some investigations and the transfer of new evidence and knowledge may address difficult, controversial and uncomfortable topics, research freedom confers the right to explore and to express findings without fear of sanction.

Any research should be appropriately contextualized. Individuals involved in research need to be aware of their surroundings and audiences, and ensure that studies, including those that provoke discussion, are being made for sound academic, scholarly and pedagogical purposes.

Research freedom does not support or protect research activity or dissemination which is spurious or vexatious.

Principles Concerning Research

This policy presents broad principles to guide the research enterprise and assure the integrity of scholarly inquiry at Nile University.

The Senate of the Nile University hereby affirms the following principles concerning research:

- Individual scholars should be free to select the subject matter of their research, to seek support from any source for their work, and to form their own findings and conclusions.

These findings and conclusions should be available for scrutiny and criticism as required by the University's Policy on Openness in Research.

- Research techniques should not violate established professional ethics pertaining to the health, safety, privacy, and other personal rights of human beings or to the infliction of injury or pain on animals.
- The University should foster an environment conducive to research. Where, because of limited resources, the University cannot support all research demands, it should allocate space, facilities, funds, and other resources for research programs based on the scholarly and educational merits of the proposed research, and not on speculations concerning the political or moral impropriety of the uses which might be made of its results.

These principles do not in any way undermine research work, rather reinforce, the individual researcher's personal responsibility to assure that the conduct of research, the sources of funding for that research, and its perceived applications are consistent with the individual researcher's judgment and conscience, and with established professional ethics.

Rights in the Conduct of Research

- (a) Faculty researchers have the right to academic freedom in the pursuit and support of research as defined in the statement of Principles Concerning Research, found in the Research Policy Handbook.
- (b) Faculty researchers have the right to disseminate the results and findings of his or her research without suppression or modification from external sponsors beyond those provisions explicitly stated in the policy on Openness in Research.
- (c) Members of the Academic Council have the right to engage in external consulting activities, subject to the University's, and in some cases their School's, limitations. It's important that faculty adhere to both the spirit and the letter of the policy.

Responsibilities in the Conduct of Research

Along with these freedoms come corresponding responsibilities:

- (a) Faculty members must be aware of their obligations to staff and students working as part of the research team. It is particularly important that at least annually, each faculty member should review intellectual and tangible property rights and responsibilities (for management of data in all media, for proper authorship attribution, etc.), with all members of the group under his or her direction, including staff, students, postdocs, and visiting scholars. Each member has the right to know who is sponsoring the research and supporting his or her salary or stipend.
- (b) On an individual level, the best interests of each staff member and student should be of particular concern. The University is committed to demonstrate support and appreciation for its staff. To that end, faculty members are encouraged to provide staff development opportunities and, if possible, a mentor relationship for those in their group.
- (c) Supporting the teaching and learning process, notably the task of instructing program and course outcomes or objectives;
- (d) Legal responsibilities, including but not limited to, ethical conduct to research and the Universal Human Rights Code,
- (e) Responsibilities outlined in pertinent college policies, notably
- (f) Intellectual Property Policy
- (g) Research Integrity at Nile University
- (h) College Codes of Conduct (Faculty, Staff, and Students); and,
- (i) Such constraints as are mutually agreed upon and expressed in non-disclosure agreements or other similar agreements arranged freely, without undue pressure or incentive, between researchers and associated administrators and assistants and industry partners party to a collaborative research project. in the exercise of research freedom, faculty, staff, and students shall:
 - (j) Respect the research freedom of others;
 - (k) Acknowledge and respect the dignity of all individuals to be free from intimidation, harassment, and discrimination;
 - (l) Freely act and speak in their capacity as public citizens without institutional censorship or discipline; and;
 - (m) Make every effort when speaking or writing as citizens to make clear that they are not representing the college on matters of public interest.

Academic Freedom

The Academic freedom policy assures that research shall be carried out with the fullest protection of freedom of inquiry, thought, expression, publication, and peaceable assembly at Nile University. The University's central functions of teaching, learning, research, and scholarship depend upon an atmosphere in which freedom of inquiry; thought, expression, publication, and peaceable assembly are given the fullest protection. Expression of the widest range of viewpoints should be encouraged, free from institutional orthodoxy and from internal or external coercion.

Research freedom includes:

- (a) Freedom to generate and transmit knowledge through research and the dissemination of research processes and outcomes within the College and publicly, including through publication, discussion, documentation, creation, teaching and lecturing, regardless of prescribed or official doctrine, and without limitation or constriction by institutional censorship;
- (b) Freedom to carry out scholarly research;
- (c) Freedom to publish the result of research without interference or censorship;
- (d) Freedom of expression related to research and its results even when these results are not consistent with the views of government of the day, other faculty or staff or the College, the administration or governing board of the College, or other organizations including those with which the College collaborates;
- (e) Freedom for the College libraries to make knowledge and ideas available and to ensure that censorship is not imposed on the selection or use of library materials.

Research freedom does not confer legal immunity. Neither does it diminish the obligation for faculty members to meet their responsibilities to the College.

Openness in Research

The University Senate shall ensure openness in Research and prohibits secrecy.

- (a) That the principle of openness in research - the principle of freedom of access by all interested persons to the underlying data, processes, and to the final results of research.

(b) That a research program shall be regarded as requiring secrecy:

- If any part of the sponsoring or granting documents that establish the project is not freely publishable
- If there is a reasonable basis for expectation that any documents to be generated in the course of the research project will be subjected by an outside sponsor to restrictions on publication for a period in excess of that reasonably required (more than 90 days) so that the sponsor can ascertain whether information he or she is entitled to have treated as confidential would be disclosed by publication
- If access will be required in the course of the project to confidential data so centrally related to the research that a member of the research group who was not privy to the confidential data would be unable to participate fully in all of the intellectually significant portions of the project

Rules of Research

- (a) No research on a thesis or dissertation should be undertaken if, at the time the topic is set, there is any substantial possibility that it will lead to a secret thesis or dissertation.
- (b) No secret thesis or dissertation should be accepted as the basis for a degree.
- (c) Scholarly activities not accessible for scrutiny by the entire Advisory Board should not be considered in connection with appointments, reappointments or promotions.
- (d) The University should enter no contract and accept no grant to carry out research if the grant or contract restrains the freedom of the University to disclose the:
 - Existence of the contract or grant or,
 - General nature of the inquiry to be conducted or,
 - Identity of the outside contracting or granting entity or,
 - The research results

Exemptions of this clause shall apply either (a) to anonymous gifts or grants that do not call for the performance of specified lines of inquiry, or (b) to research grants or contracts from individuals or non-governmental entities who request anonymity out of a justifiable motivation to protect individual privacy.

Restriction on Research

- (a) Human being as subject of study: In a program of research involving the examination, through interview techniques or otherwise, of a living human being, reasonable provision may be made to protect the rights of that individual to privacy. If, in a program of research, an outside person or entity has made available to the investigator confidential information, provision may be made to preserve confidentiality and/or a short delay in the publication of research results during which time the information source may examine the
- (b) National Security Controls: In a program of research, the purposes of which would be significantly advanced by access to information generated elsewhere that had been subjected to export or other national security controls, provision may be made for access to that information on the part of one or several of the participating investigators provided that the information falling under national security controls is peripheral to the research program in the following sense: the relationship between the data falling under national security controls and the overall research endeavor must be sufficiently remote so that.
- a member of the research group who is restricted from accessing the data falling under national security controls would nevertheless be able to participate fully in all of the intellectually significant portions of the project (i.e., would not be placed at an intellectual disadvantage by the access restriction); and
 - there is no substantial basis for an expectation that any part of the final results of the research, or any but a trivial part of the research processes, will be subject to restriction on publication.
- (c) If, in a program of research, private papers, documents, diaries or analogous materials have been provided to the investigator, provision may be made to preserve the confidentiality of those materials for the purpose of protecting the individual privacy of the author, or of the addressee.

Copyright Policy

- (a) Copyright is the ownership and control of the intellectual property in original works of authorship which are subject to copyright law. It is the policy of the University that all rights in copyright shall remain with the creator unless the work is a work-for-hire (and copyright

vests in the University under copyright law), is supported by a direct allocation of funds through the University for the pursuit of a specific project, is commissioned by the University, makes significant use of University resources or personnel, or is otherwise subject to contractual obligations. Copyright in this case implies means the sole right to produce or reproduce a work or substantial part thereof in any material form (print or digital) or to perform the work or substantial part thereof in public. Students not already familiar with this legislation should make sure they understand their responsibilities.

- (b) The doctrine of fair use: Each Faculty or institutions shall provide “Fair Use Guidelines” aimed at helping their members understand which actions certainly fell within fair use. The fair use of a copyrighted work...for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research, is not an infringement of copyright. In determining whether the use made of a work in any particular case of fair use the factors to be considered shall include:-
- (i). the purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes;
 - (ii).the nature of the copyrighted work;
 - (iii). the amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole; and
 - (iv). the effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

Use of University Resources:

Nile University resources are to be used solely for University purposes and not for personal gain or personal commercial advantage, nor for any other non-University purposes. Therefore, if the creator of a copyrightable work makes significant use of the services of University non-faculty employees or University resources to create the work, he or she shall disclose the work to the Office of Technology Licensing and assign title to the University. Examples of non-significant use include ordinary use of desktop computers, University libraries and limited secretarial or administrative resources. Questions about what constitutes significant use should be directed to the appropriate school dean or the Dean of Research.

Distribution of Course Materials

The committee acknowledged that under existing University policy, courses taught and courses developed by faculty while employed by the University belong to Nile University. The committee noted that this policy should continue to apply regardless of the form of expression, including courses captured on video or in other digital forms. However, faculty are permitted to make written course materials they personally create available to peers at other academic institutions, schools and faculties within the University for non-commercial academic or personal use. Additionally, if a faculty member leaves the University, he or she may continue to use, at another non-profit academic institution, course material he or she created at Nile University.

Compensation for Course material Development

If a department or school specifically commissions the development of course content or courseware, the payment of any supplementary compensation will be consistent with the existing policies set forth in the University compensation Policy Handbook and relevant school or institution policies.