

Faculty Senate Resolution on Fitzgerald Research Study

Whereas our reputation and integrity as an institution and, by extension, the faculty, staff and students, are two of the most valuable assets of the University;

Whereas our reputation has recently been damaged because of a study funded by Fitzgerald Glider Kits and used to influence Federal Policy; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the University President should immediately intervene to protect the solid and excellent research reputation of the University by the following recommended and responsible actions:

1. Suspend Tom Brewer, Associate Vice President of Research, from all University activities pending the results of an independent investigation headed by an external investigator according to University Policy 780;
2. Issue a letter, signed by the President, withdrawing all Tennessee Tech support from the study, pending the results of the aforementioned investigation;
3. Suspend all present research activities and other associations with Fitzgerald, pending the results of the investigation;
4. Confirm within 5 working days of the passing of this resolution the successful formation of the impartial investigatory committee under University Policy 780, led by an independent external investigator, to the Tennessee Tech Faculty Senate President and Board of Trustees;
5. Include a review by the investigatory committee of the actions, responsibilities and involvement of the Vice President of Research and Economic Development and the Associate Vice President for Research.

Motion by Senator Holly Stretz

Seconded by Senator Ahmed ElSawy

Approved by Faculty Senate vote on January 30, 2018.