

College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

14 April 2014

Dr. Karen P. DePauw
Vice President and Dean for Graduate Education
Virginia Tech Graduate School
Mail Code: 0325

Dear Dean DePauw:

The M.A. Program in the Department of Political Science hereby submits a plan for the manner and the method our graduate program has designed to fulfill the Scholarly Ethics and Integrity Requirement per the resolution passed by the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies last year.

Every incoming residential and on-line student in our M.A. Program will be required to purchase Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* (Hackett edition) at the start of their first semester of study. The Director of Graduate Studies will conduct four two-hour, once-a-month, meetings that will constitute a Workshop on Ethics and Integrity, in the fall semester (meetings in September, October, November, and December) to discuss the assigned chapters of the *Nicomachean Ethics* and to explore their significance for the required topics indicated in the Appendix to CGSP Resolution 2012-13b. These topics include plagiarism and other violations of the Virginia Tech Graduate Honor Code; the proper use of professional conventions in citation of research and scholarship, accurate reporting and ownership of findings, and the acknowledgement of scholarly contributions; ethical standards in teaching, mentoring and professional activities; and available avenues for reporting any observed alleged misconduct. A number of other topics deemed appropriate in the Appendix will also be discussed in these meetings, including fair use, IRB approval, guidelines for determining authorship with colleagues and mentors, and grant contract management. All of these topics have especial significance in Political Science.

The Department of Political Science will require our students' full participation in either residential or on-line meetings that will comprise the Ethics and Integrity Workshop. Residential M.A. students will be required to attend the on-campus meetings; on-line students will be required to participate in meetings conducted asynchronously on a Scholar course site to be established for the purpose of satisfying the requirements. The Director of Graduate Studies will preside over the residential as well as the on-line meetings.

Satisfaction of the Scholarly Ethics and Integrity Requirement will be indicated on all students' Plan of Study forms. The Director of Graduate Studies, in signing the POS, will indicate whether the student has met the requirement. Our students' Plan of Study forms are submitted midway through the second semester of the two-year program, well after the requirements of the Ethics and Integrity workshop will have been met.

On behalf of the Political Science Graduate Committee, I am eager to learn if this plan meets the Graduate School's expectations for ethics and integrity activities for our students beginning in the fall of 2014.

Sincerely yours,

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Director of Graduate Studies
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