

# Scientific Integrity and Professional Ethics at AGU – The Establishment and Evolution of an Ethics Program at a Large Scientific Society

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April 18, 2016

# OUTLINE

- AGU Overview
- AGU Ethics Policy and Program: History and Highlights
- The Issue of Harassment in the Sciences - Why now?
- The Role for Scientific Societies in Addressing Harassment



# AGU 2015 Membership Snapshot

## AGU Worldwide Membership



### International & Domestic

### Percent of Region To Membership

United States and Territories .....	61%
Western Europe .....	16%
Southeast Asia .....	13%
Canada .....	4%
Western Pacific .....	3%
Latin America and Caribbean .....	2%
Middle East and North Africa .....	1%
Eastern Europe .....	1%
Central and South Africa .....	0%



Regular  
70%



Student  
23%



Life  
6%



Associate  
1%

# The AGU Strategic Plan

## Scientific Leadership & Collaboration

The American Geophysical Union is a leader, collaborator and sought after partner for scientific innovation, rigor and interdisciplinary focus on global issues.

- Transform the future of AGU's scientific publishing in an evolving marketplace.

## Science & Society

The American Geophysical Union engages members, shapes policy, and informs society about the excitement of Earth and space science and its role in developing solutions for the sustainability of the planet.

- Increase awareness of the importance of Earth and space science issues for nonscience audiences.
- Increase effectiveness and recognition of AGU among decision makers as an authoritative source of integrated, interdisciplinary Earth and space science information.

## Our Mission

The purpose of the American Geophysical Union is to promote discovery in Earth and space science for the benefit of humanity.

## Our Vision

AGU galvanizes a community of Earth and space scientists that collaboratively advances and communicates science and its power to ensure a sustainable future.

## Talent Pool

The American Geophysical Union is a diverse and inclusive organization that uses its position to build the global talent pool in Earth and space science.

- Increase our understanding of the real barriers to gender and ethnic diversity and involvement within AGU and within Earth and space science.

## Organizational Excellence

As a scientific society, the American Geophysical Union operates within a new business model that is sustainable, transparent, and inclusive in ways that are responsive to members and stakeholders.

- Expand sources of revenue outside the current publications and meetings model.
  - Enhance existing revenue sources.
  - Optimize effectiveness (capacity) of technology and technology resources.
  - Improve responsiveness to members.



# Sample AGU Partnerships in Scientific Leadership and Collaboration



A New 2015  
Partnership



Society of Exploration Geophysicists  
*The international society of applied geophysics*



# AGU Ethics Policy Foundation

- ❑ 13 Principles based upon the “Singapore Statement on Research Integrity”
- ❑ 10 Responsibilities specifically for AGU Volunteers Leaders
- ❑ Ethical Guidelines for Publication
- ❑ Procedures for filing & responding to allegations



# AGU Ethics Policy Evolutionary Steps



**Policy and additional Ethics resources at website::**

<http://ethics.agu.org/about/>

# AGU Ethics – The Core Program

## Ethics Policy and Processes

- Code of conduct enforcement for AGU Leaders
- Not a strong code of conduct for regular members beyond addressing research misconduct
- 8-12 Ethics cases formal complaints filed each year
- Ethics Town Hall sessions at each AGU Annual Meeting

## Meetings Code of Conduct

- Addresses harassment and other unacceptable behaviors
- Spells out consequences and reporting mechanism



# Recent AGU Ethics Program Topics and Attention

- Ethics education for Student & Early Career members
- Exploration of Ethics Case Studies
- Introduction to Geo-Ethics
- Contributions to Ethics Books and Publications
- Harassment in Earth and Space Sciences



# Ethical Conduct Issue:

## Sexual Harassment in the Sciences

- 4 Recent high profile cases in the news (UC Berkeley, Caltech, U of Chicago, U of Arizona)
- Issue discussed with AGU members at 2015 FM Ethics Town Hall meeting
- Some members asking for AGU leadership and a strong, more explicit AGU stance



# Ethical Conduct Issue: Sexual Harassment in the Sciences

## Why Now:

- Increased awareness
- Increased gender diversity in STEM
- Increased social media

## Impact:

- Perceived uneven response, or slow to address
- Serious negative effect on ESS Talent Pool pipeline



# Ethical Conduct Issue:

## AGU Organizational Considerations

- What are the pros and cons for potential AGU sanctions against members in non leadership roles, when actions took place outside of AGU
- What defines egregious behavior, if AGU were to consider sanctions against members for actions outside of AGU? Is it limited to harassment?
- What are suggested tools and actions AGU can help provide on this issue?



# AGU Ethics - Current Actions



Help drive common principles adoption for scientific societies related to harassment



Investigate tools and resources to help victims and institutions appropriately respond



Update policy and provide education on harassment and related issues to all members



# AGU ETHICS SUMMARY

- A critical underpinning program for AGU
- We continue to grow and learn what is important in ethics
- Very important issues at the forefront. Much more than research integrity!



# QUESTIONS



**THANK YOU!**