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Legal Monitor of the Silesian University of Technology

position 240

ORDINANCE NO 51/2021 OF THE RECTOR OF THE SILESIAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY from 29 March 2021

on the introduction of the "Code of ethics for academic teachers of the Silesian University of Technology"

Acting under Art. 23 sec. 1 of the Act of July 20, 2018 – Law on Higher Education and Science (consolidated text Journal of Laws of 2021, item 478), in connection with the provisions of the Code of Ethics for Researchers (constituting an appendix to Resolution No. 2/2020 of the General Assembly Polish Academy of Sciences of 25 June 2020) and the Declaration on academic freedom (attached as Annex 1 to the Rome Communiqué adopted in November 2020 at the Ministerial Conference of the European Area of Higher Education in Rome), after consulting the Senate of the Silesian University of Technology (Resolution No. 22/2021 of the Senate of the Silesian University of Technology of March 29, 2021, on giving opinions on the Ethics Regulations of academic teachers of the Silesian University of Technology – SUT Legal Monitor of 2021, item 232) the following is ordered:

§ 1

The University implements the "Code of Ethics for Academic Teachers of the Silesian University of Technology", constituting an appendix to this ordinance.

§ 2

The ordinance comes into force on the day of its signing.

Rector of SUT: A. Mężyk

Code of ethics for academic teachers of the Silesian University of Technology

In the spirit of ensuring the constitutional rights of members of the academic community, the University's autonomy and academic freedom understood as undoubtedly a fundamental democratic right, partially grounded in the right to education, and having common elements with the freedom of thought, opinion and expression, as defined in Annex 1 of the Rome Communiqué adopted in November 2020, at the Ministerial Conference of the European Area of Higher Education in Rome, the values and ethical standards for academic teachers of the Silesian University of Technology are defined.

Chapter 1

General provisions

§ 1

The code of ethics of academic teachers of the Silesian University of Technology hereinafter referred to as the Code, defines the ethical values and the resulting rules of conduct for an academic teacher as:

- 1) an employee of the Silesian University of Technology,
- 2) scientific researcher,
- 3) educators and tutors of participants in the education process,
- 4) participant in public life

and is consistent with the Code of Ethics for Researchers adopted by the General Assembly of the Polish Academy of Sciences on June 25, 2020.

§ 2

Whenever this Code refers to an academic teacher, it should be understood as a person who meets the requirements referred to in art. 113 and 116 of the Act of 20 July 2018 – Law on Higher Education and Science (consolidated text, Journal of Laws of 2021, item 478), employed at the Silesian University of Technology.

§ 3

The provisions of this Code also apply to persons who perform the tasks of an academic teacher at the Silesian University of Technology or conduct scientific research under civil law contracts.

§ 4

Compliance with ethical values and the rules of ethical conduct is the responsibility of academic teachers of the Silesian University of Technology, is inextricably linked with the performance of this profession, and in some cases their violation may be subject to disciplinary liability pursuant to Art. 275 of the act referred to in § 2.

Chapter 2

Universal ethical values characteristic of an academic teacher

§ 5

1. The attitude of an academic teacher is characterized by respect for the applicable law as well as recognized values and ethical principles.
2. Research and teaching activity and academic teacher's participation in public life serve to discover, defend and disseminate truth as the main cognitive value.
3. Academic teacher:
 - 1) upholds the dignity of the teaching profession both in professional and private life and in public activity, combining personal dignity with respect for the dignity of other people,
 - 2) is distinguished by tolerance towards people of different origins, religion, race, gender and age, as well as respect for other points of view, research attitudes, world views and cultural traditions,

- 3) has a sense of moral and legal responsibility for the views expressed and research carried out, and for his behaviour as an employee of the Silesian University of Technology, researcher, educator and participant in public life,
- 4) opposes dishonesty, dishonesty, intolerance, injustice and other manifestations of unethical behaviour of persons employed at the Silesian University of Technology, students and doctoral students and other participants in the education process,
- 5) avoids a conflict of interest and refuses to accept any benefits that could violate his independence, integrity or objectivity.

Chapter 3

Academic teacher as an employee

§ 6

Academic teacher as an employee:

- 1) cares about the good image of the Silesian University of Technology and carries out its mission,
- 2) promotes and develops ethical values and a sense of bond in the entire academic community of the Silesian University of Technology,
- 3) shows loyalty to the Silesian University of Technology, manifested primarily by observing employee discipline and showing help in building the prestige of the University,
- 4) actively and creatively performs tasks for the Silesian University of Technology and participates in the organizational work of the University, taking an active part in the implementation of the University's development strategy,
- 5) is a model of behaviour for members of the academic community and the socio-economic environment of the University,
- 6) is kind, considerate and polite in interpersonal relations, has good manners and cares for good relations at work, and does not cause conflicts in his environment,
- 7) when performing functions in the elected bodies of the Silesian University of Technology and managerial functions, they are guided only by the good of the University and the academic community,
- 8) develops his / her professional knowledge necessary for better and better performance of scientific and didactic work,
- 9) ensures the reliable and conscientious performance of professional duties,
- 10) does not accept any material or personal benefits from students, doctoral students and other persons for performing their teaching duties,
- 11) takes care of the property and public funds at his disposal as a person employed at the Silesian University of Technology, and does not use funds and materials in a manner inconsistent with the University's regulations,
- 12) does not take actions that could harm the prestige of the Silesian University of Technology and does not get involved in projects that could contribute to the weakening of the University's competitiveness in any sphere,
- 13) when taking up work outside the Silesian University of Technology, refrains from activities that are competitive to the University or its organizational units.

Chapter 4

Academic teacher as a scientific researcher

§ 7

Academic teacher as a researcher:

- 1) is reliable in presenting the objectives of the intended or conducted research, in presenting research methods and procedures and interpreting the obtained results, as well as in providing information on possible risks and benefits resulting from their use,
- 2) is reliable in conducting research, meticulous, shows attention to detail and diligence in presenting and publishing research results,

- 3) is objective - bases interpretation and conclusions only on the reliably obtained test results, verifiable reasoning and data that can be confirmed by others,
- 4) is independent of external influences on the conduct of research, in particular from persons commissioning analysis or expertise,
- 5) is open to discussing his research with other scientists and contributing to the collection of knowledge by fairly publishing the results of his work,
- 6) is responsible towards the research objects; research on humans or animals may be carried out only when it is necessary and always with respect for human dignity and animal rights, based on the consent of the relevant ethics committees, including bioethical committees,
- 7) is aware of the responsibility for the socio-economic and environmental consequences of incorrectly formulated conclusions,
- 8) is fair and reliable in the substantive and ethical assessment of work as well as in giving opinions and recognizing the scientific achievements of other researchers, which is expressed in the proper mention of sources and fair recognition of their participation in scientific achievements,
- 9) does not use his/her scientific authority when speaking on topics outside the area of his/her competencies,
- 10) shows concern for future generations of scientists, which manifests itself not only in respect and fair treatment of colleagues and efforts for their scientific development, but also in the dissemination of applicable standards and ethical norms among them.

Chapter 5

Academic teacher as a teacher and tutor of participants in the education process

§ 8

N An academic teacher as a teacher and tutor of participants in the education process (students, doctoral students, and participants of other forms of education):

- 1) cares for the innovation of teaching methods and clear transfer of knowledge, as well as active and creative participation of the participants of the educational process in the classes, develops their independent thinking,
- 2) provide the latest state of knowledge in the field of the subject, reliably informing about the original contribution of specific scientists or research teams,
- 3) without giving up traditional academic freedoms, including freedom of speech, makes every effort to present socially sensitive issues or issues that arouse disputes and controversies, avoiding expressions that may be perceived as degrading or offensive,
- 4) treats everyone with kindness, seriousness and tact, avoids inappropriate words and behaviour, is not guided by negative emotions, is impartial and fair,
- 5) does not undermine the authority of other academic teachers when conducting classes,
- 6) in particular respects the content of education, the schedule of their delivery and the announced method of verification of learning outcomes specified in the relevant documents,
- 7) cares about punctuality, does not abuse substitutions or postponing classes,
- 8) adopts fair and equal assessment rules regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, worldview, political views, sexual orientation, material position, position in social or professional life, etc.,
- 9) assesses openly, enabling the assessed to get acquainted with the justification of the assessment,
- 10) in the teaching process, fights the symptoms of dishonesty in the participants of the education process, including the appropriation of the results of someone else's work,
- 11) teaches the culture of scientific discussion and formulating criticism following the principles of good practice and respect for the interlocutor,
- 12) in the education process, avoids phrases and terms that belong or may be considered to belong to the language of hate, profanity and symbols or gestures considered offensive, and also strongly reacts when he is a witness to such behaviour,
- 13) recognizes the inalienable right of the participants of the education process to evaluate their didactic work and teaching attitude,

- 14) in the event of a conflict with the participants of the education process, entrusts the resolution of the dispute to bodies or commissions of the Silesian University of Technology appointed for this purpose,
- 15) inviting participants of the education process to participate in scientific research, makes this participation visible in the documentation of research and publication results and respects their participation in any fees,
- 16) shapes the foundations of responsibility for the social and natural environment among the participants of the education process.

Chapter 6

Academic teacher as a participant in public life

§ 9

Academic teacher as a participant in public life representing the Silesian University of Technology:

- 1) ensures that the results of conducted research serve the society by disseminating reliable information about the achievements of the science he/she represents,
- 2) does not express himself or herself in public and social life in a manner that is contradictory or undermines the credibility of the knowledge provided in the education process,
- 3) by becoming a participant in the exchange of views in the public forum, in the media, including social media, adheres to the principles and provisions of the Code of Ethics for academic teachers of the Silesian University of Technology,
- 4) has a view to increasing the level of common understanding of scientific achievements,
- 5) undertakes to develop an opinion, review or expert opinion only in the field of his speciality, relying on scientific findings and full recognition of relevant facts and circumstances,
- 6) does not sacrifice the principle of scientific integrity and honesty to achieve own goals and benefits in public life,
- 7) while performing public functions in state or local government positions and other institutions and organizations, adheres to the values and principles of ethical conduct of an academic teacher.

Chapter 7

Final provisions

§ 10

In situations not covered by this Code, an academic teacher should act following the provisions of the Act referred to in § 2, the Statute of the Silesian University of Technology, resolutions and ordinances of the University bodies, orders of superiors and generally recognized academic traditions and good manners.