Faculty Advisory Committee  
Resolution on Protecting Confidentiality in Research on Human Subjects

WHEREAS, BOR policy IT-001, passed on 10/18/2012 and revised 10/1/2015, stipulates that "all activities involving the use of ConnSCU IT systems are not personal or private"...[and that] "users should have no expectation of privacy;"

WHEREAS, all research on human subjects should be approved by an institutional review board (IRB), and all federal grants that support research on human subjects require IRB approval;

WHEREAS, one of the three ethical principles that guide IRB decisions is respect for persons, which commonly requires researchers to seek informed consent from study participants and to maintain the confidentiality or anonymity of the research subjects;

WHEREAS, researchers in obtaining informed consent for study participants commonly pledge to take all necessary and practical steps to protect confidentiality or anonymity;

WHEREAS, researchers would seemingly be unable to protect confidentiality or anonymity because BOR policy IT-001 states that users have no expectations of privacy;

WHEREAS, data and information collected in research on human subjects is not a protected class of information under Connecticut's FOI laws and rules;

WHEREAS, the BOR has recognized research as an activity that furthers the mission of the Connecticut State Universities (see the resolution passed on June 20, 2013);

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Advisory Committee recommends that the BOR modify policy IT-001 to recognize that all information collected in conjunction with research on human subjects be exempt from the no expectation of privacy provision;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Faculty Advisory Committee expects the BOR and the system office to defend and protect the procedures established to maintain respect for persons in research on human subjects provided that those procedures were approved by an appropriate institutional review board.