Beyond compliance: Nurturing an institutional culture of integrity

Dr Saadia Mahmud (saadia.mahmud@unisa.edu.au) and Dr Tracey Bretag (tracey.bretag@unisa.edu.au), University of South Australia

Measures to enact exemplary policy on integrity

- Adhere to the Code
- Consistent policy and practice
- Model good practice and socialise research trainees
- Enforce policy

Online student survey on academic integrity (AI) in Australia n =15,304, HDR n =1,186 found that one in five (18.5%) HDR students had never heard of academic integrity. (Bretag et al 2013)

Reviewed 9 online academic integrity policies for HDR students at Australian universities against the Code and the five core elements (Bretag et al 2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Access</th>
<th>Approach</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Detail</th>
<th>Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2: Ratings for HDR Academic integrity policy

Found inconsistency with the Code in the definition of research misconduct and a lack of adequate detail and support. (Mahmud & Bretag 2013, forthcoming)

Consistent and educative approach to integrity is maintained across the university at all levels of scholarship and for all stakeholders

- Access: Linking specific requirements for postgraduate research students from main academic integrity policy
- Approach: Policy should state values that the institution aspires to and the rationale for integrity in research
- Responsibility: Policy should apply to all stakeholders
- Detail: Provide adequate detail
- Support: Provide training throughout candidature

Policy on integrity in postgraduate research that meets the standards of exemplary academic integrity policy

- Extend and embed the five core elements of exemplary academic integrity policy across Australian HE sector.
- Address needs of HDR students

Found inconsistency with the Code in the definition of research misconduct and a lack of adequate detail and support. (Mahmud & Bretag 2013, forthcoming)

References:


Acknowledgment: Support for this project has been provided by the Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching. The views in this project do not necessarily reflect the views of the Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching.

http://www.unisa.edu.au/EAIP

Our framework consists of:

- a commitment to foster a culture of integrity
- academic integrity policy that includes the five core elements
- policy on integrity in postgraduate research that meets the standards of exemplary academic integrity policy
- measures to enact exemplary policy on integrity.

Figure 1: Evidence-based policy and support framework to foster integrity in postgraduate research (Mahmud & Bretag 2013, forthcoming)