

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
RESEARCH, SCHOLARLY AND ARTISTIC WORK COMMITTEE FOR
INFORMATION ONLY

PRESENTED BY: Karen Chad, Vice President Research

DATE OF MEETING: June 19, 2014

SUBJECT: Responsible Conduct of Research Policy: Report on policy breaches

COUNCIL ACTION: For information only

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND:

The Tri-Agency Framework on the Responsible Conduct of Research section 4.5c requires the university to publish “public statistical annual reports on confirmed findings of breaches of that policy and actions taken, subject to applicable laws, including the privacy laws”. As well, the procedures of the university’s [Responsible Conduct of Research \(RCR\) Policy](#), requires an annual report to be provided to Council documenting the numbers of allegations received, the numbers of those proceeding to a hearing, and the numbers and nature of findings of breach of this policy.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY:

During the past year, the Associate Vice-President Research dealt with three allegations of a breach of the RCR policy; of these three, only one allegation was new within the year. In the case of two allegations, one of plagiarism and one of plagiarism and redundant publication, hearing boards found there had been breaches of the policy.

Actions taken involved disciplinary action in the first case. In the second case, the student involved was expelled, one paper was retracted and a corrigendum added to a second paper. Both cases were reported to the Tri-Agencies as required.

In the third case, the hearing board found that no policy breach had occurred. The outcome of this case has been reported to the Tri-Agencies.

Education on the Responsible Conduct of Research

Graduate Students: Since January 2008, all graduate students at the U of S have been required to take GSR960 in their first term as a graduate student. 1096 graduate students enrolled in GSR960 in the 2013-14 academic year. Five face to face full day workshops on RCR were also offered, primarily for international students. Presentations on RCR were also made to graduate seminars and classes in 2013-14.

Faculty, Staff and Post Docs: The Research Ethics Office and Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness are designing an online RCR course to be made available in September for these groups.