

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

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**PRESENTED BY:** Karen Chad, Vice-President, Research

**DATE OF MEETING:** June 18, 2015

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

**COUNCIL ACTION:** For information only

**CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND:**

The Tri-Agency Framework on Responsible Conduct of Research section 4.5c requires the university to publish “public statistical annual reports on confirmed findings or breaches of that policy and action taken, subject to applicable laws, included 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 number of allegations received, the number of those proceeding to a hearing, and the numbers and nature of findings of breaches of the policy.

**DISCUSSION SUMMARY:**

In 2014-15, the Associate Vice-President Research dealt with three allegations of a breach of the RCR policy that were new within the year. One case involved allegation of redundant publication; the case proceeded to investigation; and the hearing board found that no breach of policy had occurred. One case involved an allegation of plagiarism; this case proceeded to investigation; and the hearing board found that no breach of policy had occurred. One case involved an allegation of plagiarism; and inquiry by the senior administrator determined that there was no evidence to suggest that a breach had occurred, and that there were no grounds for an investigation under the RCR Policy. Two additional allegations of plagiarism or redundant publication have been received late in the current academic year, and are at the inquiry stage of procedures under the policy, with no decision on investigation at this time.

## **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. In the 2014-15 academic year, the Research Services and Ethics Office provided online research ethics and integrity training to 1400 graduate students through the courses GSR960 (Introduction to Ethics and Integrity), GSR961 (Ethics and Integrity in Human Research) and GSR962 (Ethics and Integrity in Animal Research): 914, 339 and 147 graduate students were registered, respectively. Two face to face full day workshops on RCR were also offered, primarily for international students.