

## Keynote Speech by Tracey Bretag

Associate Professor Tracey Bretag is the Director of the UniSA Business School Office for Academic Integrity. For 15 years, Tracey's research has focussed on academic integrity. Since 2011 she has led four Australian Office for Learning and Teaching funded research projects, and is currently co-leading (with Rowena Harper) the Contract Cheating and Assessment Design project. Tracey is the founding Editor of the International Journal for Educational Integrity (SpringerOpen), Editor-in-Chief of the Handbook of Academic Integrity (2016), former Chair of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Educational Integrity, and Former President of the Executive Board to the International Center for Academic Integrity.

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### **Title:**

Responding to breaches of academic integrity: The need to be consistent, transparent and compassionate

### **Abstract:**

Academic integrity means acting with the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage in learning, teaching and research. It is important for students, teachers, researchers and administrative staff to act in an honest way, be responsible for their actions, and show fairness in every part of their work. All students and staff should be an example to others of how to act with integrity in their study and work. Academic integrity is important for an individual's and a school's reputation. (adapted from Exemplary Academic Integrity Project, n.d.)

A breach of academic integrity can be defined as any behaviour which undermines the values, norms and practices of academic integrity. Breaches include, but are not limited to plagiarism, cheating in exams or assignments, impersonation in exams, collusion, theft of another student's work, sabotage of another student's learning/assessment, paying a third party for assignments ('contract cheating'), downloading whole, or part of assignments from the Internet/file-sharing sites, falsification of data, misrepresentation of records, and fraudulent research and publishing practices.

Tracey Bretag will discuss the critical role of assessment, the student/teacher relationship and the teaching and learning environment more broadly, as part of a holistic approach to safeguarding academic integrity and minimising opportunities for students to cheat. However, when cheating does occur, Dr Bretag will underscore the imperative for academic integrity breach decision-makers to

use approaches which are consistent and transparent, as well as compassionate. Dr Bretag will remind delegates that students are often young or inexperienced people who have simply made a careless mistake. Our students look to us as their educators and role models for guidance in how to move beyond that mistake so that they can graduate as ethical contributors to society.

Reference:

Exemplary Academic Integrity Project (n.d.) [www.unisa.edu.au/EAIP](http://www.unisa.edu.au/EAIP)