Academic integrity in higher education institutions: a global perspective

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Plenary Session: Academic Integrity

- Community of researchers
- Global perspectives on corruption in HE
- Responsibility for oversight
- The future
Community of Researchers: ENAI

- Diversity
  - culture
  - experience
  - perceptions
- Commitment
  - inclusivity
  - education
  - research
- Common values
  - altruism
  - integrity
Global perspectives on corruption in HE

- Policies and actions of Accreditation & Quality Assurance Bodies to counter Corruption in Higher Education August 2017- August 2018
- Funded by Council for Higher Education Accreditation International Quality Group (CHEA /CIQG)
- Global Survey of Higher Education Accreditation and Quality Assurance bodies (AQABs)
- Interviews with people helping to fight corruption and malpractice in Higher Education across the world
About the study

- Commissioned by CHEA / CIQG starting summer 2017
- Team from Coventry University (Irene, Stella, Andrew, Esmé)
- Building on Advisory Statement 2016 by Sir John Daniel
- Target participants ~320 AQABs and networks globally, NGOs
- Ethical approval; Literature review; Webinar Oct 2017
- Survey of AQABs: on-line questionnaire + interviews
- Analysis, interpretation, case studies, report: due Summer 2018
Scope of research – AQAB actions and responses to corruption in

- regulation of higher education systems
- teaching role in higher education
- student admission and recruitment
- student assessment
- credentials and qualifications
- research and publications

(Daniel 2016)
a. the regulation of higher education systems
b. the teaching role of higher education
c. student assessment
d. student admission and recruitment
e. credentials and qualifications
f. research
g. academic publications
Six slides removed with graphs showing responses to questions on the 6 categories of corruption. Results will be published by CHEA / CIQG later this year.
What is your organization’s view on the overall situation relating to corruption and academic integrity breaches in higher education in your part of the world?
Please provide information about actions your organization is planning that will address different forms of corruption and breaches to academic integrity.

- Develop new standards
- Develop new policies
- Develop guidance for higher education providers
- Consult with higher education providers
- Consult with other organizations
- Other
Suggestions from participants

• Establish a system of exchange information among AQABs
• Joint working with a range of parties to decrease corruption in higher education
• Sharing of information globally
• Improvement of education standards and operational policies of accreditation agencies
• Legislation to counter institutions and individuals who misrepresent qualifications
• Scientific research needs to be funded by entities without a financial stake in the results.
• Sensitization and advocacy
Good practice examples

- Australia’s TEQSA and UK’s QAA have created guidance notes for HE providers on how to address contract cheating (TEQSA 2017, QAA 2017), in collaboration with HE providers, students and other stakeholders; New Zealand and several other countries / states have made Contract Cheating illegal.
- Anti-corruption agencies, NGOs and/or ombudsmen are supporting the work of AQABs in Africa (Okebulola 2018), Lithuania, Slovenia, Kosovo and elsewhere.
- Volunteer networks such as Vroniplag, Dissernet working regionally
- Investigative journalism helps to highlight issues
• Many AQABs appear unaware or in denial about corruption under their remit

• Limitations:
  – Geographical coverage low in China, Africa, India, Russia, S. America
  – Interviews being conducted to capture more evidence and opinions, focusing on these areas
  – Some responses not very engaged
Responsibility for oversight on corruption in higher education

• If AQABs are not taking responsibility for oversight then who is?
• Who should be responsible?
• What more can be done?
• Governments?
• Funders, Publishers for research
Who else is tackling corruption and malpractice in education & research?

• Council of Europe, UNESCO / IIEP, CHEA / CIQG, World Bank
• Transparency International
• Retraction Watch, COPE
• Anti-corruption groups and individuals eg ORCA (Kosovo), Dissernet (Russia), Vroniplag (Germany)
• Groningen Declaration Network
• AQABs: QAA, TEQSA
• ENAI, ENRIO, ENERI, ICAI, Euro Science and other networks
• Plus many more
The Future
Academic Integrity

• Where are we heading?
• Different starting points
• Are we all going in the same direction?
• Will we ever get there?
The journey may be difficult at times, but we must continue to make progress.
International Day of Action against Contract Cheating

http://contractcheating.weebly.com/

#ExcelwithIntegrity
#DefeattheCheat

19th October 2016
18th October 2017
17th October 2018
Irene’s to do list

Compete CIQG research
QAA Working group
Turnitin advisory group & beta testing
Scrapbooking project with Martine
Council of Europe: 17 more European countries to survey
ENAI project
ENAI board
Coventry University day job, PhD supervision
BCS duties
Supporting Book on gender disparities in computing
External examining, e-tutor
Lots of holidays
Grandparenting
Deterring misconduct in student work

- Work with students not against them
- Value critical thinking
- Don’t repeat the same assessments
- Provide opportunities for formative learning
- Education on academic writing & consequences
- Whole community approach to responsibility
- Encourage a culture of academic integrity
- Robust, consistent, transparent institution-wide policies and systems
- Whistle-blowing policy - students & staff
Consequences of not addressing misconduct in education and research

- Threat to quality and standards
- Unreliable academic qualifications
- Professional incompetence of graduates
- Research results unreliable
- Unfair advantages / disadvantages
- Threat to institutional reputation
- Waste of public money
- Erodes public trust in science, research and education
It is very messy and complex, but we all need to keep working on it.

Thanks for listening - see you in Vilnius in 2019.

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References, resources

Academic Integrity Rating System on-line: http://www.academicintegrity.org/icai/assets/AIRS.pdf [10/10/2017]


IPPHEAE project results: http://www.plagiarism.cz/ippheae/ [10/10/2017]
References, resources


References

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