

Further allegations of institutional non-compliance against Queen's University

Morteza Shirkhanzadeh

Sent: August 7, 2014 9:27 PM

To: Z-SRCR [secretariat@rcr.ethics.gc.ca]

Attachments: Attachment (1).pdf (559 KB) ; Attachment (2).pdf (394 KB) ; Attachment (3).pdf (619 KB)

Dear Ms. Zimmerman,

Please see below further allegations of institutional non-compliance against Queen's University:

Allegations of plagiarism and data fabrication (Attachment (1)) were sent to SRCR and the institution on March 05, 2013 in accordance with the procedure recommended by the Tri-Agency Framework.

These allegations were reviewed as per section 6c of the Queen's Research Integrity Policy on May 21, 2013, and the University concluded that there was sufficient evidence to indicate a situation may exist that would constitute misconduct and a full investigation was necessary (Attachment (2)).

The report of the investigation committee that I have received from Queen's University shows that these allegations were excluded from the investigation process despite the fact that the University had concluded in May 21 that a full investigation was necessary.

The investigation report shows that the committee considered only one allegation of plagiarism that was submitted on February 24, 2013 (Attachment (3)). The investigative committee found that "the respondent had engaged in plagiarism defined as presenting and using another's published work, including theories, concepts, data, source material, methodologies or findings, including graphs and images, as one's own, without appropriate referencing and without required permission".

But the committee concluded that "the degree of plagiarism could be considered limited."

This conclusion is seriously flawed. It is clear that the University excluded the more extensive cases of plagiarism in order to limit the damage to its reputation. This questions the credibility of the investigative committee and the validity of the entire findings in the report. If it was not for the fact that the University omitted the allegations of plagiarism and data fabrication submitted on March 05, we would have seen a report with vastly different findings.

The University sanitized the report and omitted the damning evidence from the investigation. A credible independent committee should look into the lack of commitment to research integrity and poor oversight.

Sincerely,

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