

# Annual Report of the VU Academic Integrity Committee

Year 2023

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## **Introduction**

This is the annual report of the VU Academic Integrity Committee (AIC) for the period January 2023 through December 2023. The AIC advises the Executive Board (EB) of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and the Governing Board (GB) of Amsterdam UMC regarding matters of academic integrity.

## **Code of conduct and complaints procedure**

Over the year 2023, the AIC assessed complaints submitted regarding violations of academic integrity based on the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity 2018 (NCCR). For academic activity that did not fall under the NCCR, the AIC applied the codes of conduct that were applicable at that time. When handling complaints, the AIC worked in accordance with the Academic Integrity Complaints Procedure Vrije Universiteit April 2022.

## **Decision making**

The AIC issues its recommendations to the EB. If a complaint involves a VU-affiliated researcher from Amsterdam UMC, the GB is involved in the decision-making process.

## **Composition of the AIC**

The composition of the AIC for the period January 2023 - December 2023 was as follows:

Prof. mr. Jan Struikma, chair  
Prof. dr. Jan van Mill, member  
Prof. mr. Jon Schilder, member  
Prof. dr. Martin den Heijer, member  
Prof. dr. Mariëtte van den Hoven, member  
Secretary: Nathalie Trifkovic, LL.M.  
Assistant Secretary: José Kiss, MSc (until April 2023); Dorien van der Schot (per September 2023)

## **Number of cases**

Five new cases were received by the AIC during the year 2023. The AIC completed all of these cases within the year.

## **Nature of the allegations**

The allegations related to authorship, plagiarism, deceit, intransparency and misleading/sloppy science. The complaints varied in scope and processing time.

## **Course of the procedures**

In all cases the AIC met the procedural deadlines under the complaints procedure. Three complaints were ended before completion of the investigation. The processing time of the two completed complaints was 7 months, which is average.

## **Advisory reports of the AIC**

In two cases, the AIC advised the EB to declare the complaints manifestly unfounded. In one case the advice was to declare a complaint inadmissible. In the other two cases the advice was to declare the complaints unfounded.

## **Decisions of the EB and LOWI-procedures**

In four cases the EB adopted the AIC-advice. In one case the EB deviated from the AIC when it decided to declare the complaint inadmissible rather than manifestly unfounded.

In three cases a request for a second opinion was made to the National Board for Scientific Integrity (LOWI). One of these procedures led to an unchanged final EB-decision. Two LOWI-procedures are still ongoing at the time of this writing.

## **Anonymous complaints**

No anonymous complaints were received by the AIC during the year 2023.

**Publicatie van adviezen**

The anonymized reports of the AIC, including the statement of the EB's final decisions, can be found on [Universiteiten van Nederland \(UNL\)](#) six weeks after completion of a case, with the exception of cases that have been dealt with under an abbreviated procedure. LOWI publishes its anonymized recommendations, including the relevant EB decisions, on its own website.

**Publication of the AIC's annual reports**

Since 2021, the AIC annual reports are published in a web-friendly format on the [RI-page](#) of the VU website.