

Annual Report of the VU-VUmc Academic Integrity Committee

Year 2022

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Introduction

This is the annual report of the VU-VUmc Academic Integrity Committee (AIC) for the period January 2022 through December 2022. The AIC advises the Executive Board (EB) of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and the Governing Board (GB) of Amsterdam UMC, VUmc location, regarding matters of academic integrity.

Code of conduct and complaints procedure

Over the year 2022, the AIC assessed complaints submitted regarding violations of academic integrity based on the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity 2018 (Nederlandse Gedragscode Wetenschappelijke Integriteit - NGWI). For academic activity that did not fall under the NGWI, the AIC applied the codes of conduct that were applicable at that time. As a result, the AIC assessed one activity based on the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Academic Practice (Nederlandse Gedragscode Wetenschapsbeoefening - NGWb) dating from 2004.

When handling complaints, the AIC worked in accordance with the 2016 VU-VUmc Academic Integrity Complaints Procedure. On 20 April 2022, the revised version of this regulation came into effect: the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam Academic Integrity Complaints Procedure, April 2022. Complaints received after this date will be reviewed based on the new complaints procedure.

Decision making

The AIC issues its recommendations to the Executive Board. If a complaint involves a researcher from VUmc, the Governing Board is involved in the decision-making process.

Composition of the Academic Integrity Committee

The composition of the AIC for the period January 2022 - December 2022 was as follows:

Prof. Jan Struiksma, chairperson
Prof. Jan van Mill, member
Prof Jon Schilder, member
Prof. Martin den Heijer, member
Prof. Mariëtte van den Hoven, member
Secretary: Nathalie Trifkovic, LLM
Assistant Secretary: José Kiss, MSc

Number of cases

Six new cases were received by the AIC during the year 2022. The AIC issued final assessments for three of these cases over the course of the year. The AIC reviewed one of these cases at the request of another institution, because the academic integrity committee there could not review the case due to a conflict of interest. In addition, one case still pending from 2021 was completed.

Nature of the allegations

The allegations related to authorship, data fabrication, conflict of interest and academic negligence. The complaints varied in scope.

Course of the procedures

In all cases the AIC met all the procedural deadlines under the complaints procedure. Three cases that had not been completed in 2022 were given abbreviated procedures, which meant that the first Executive Board decision in these cases could be made in less than six months time.

The three cases still under review arrived in the months of September, November and December 2022.

Recommendations of the Academic Integrity Committee

In two of the three cases, the AIC advised the Executive Board to declare parts of the complaint well-founded. In one case, the AIC recommended that the complaint be declared unfounded.

Decisions of the Board and LOWI procedures

In all three cases, the Executive Board adopted the recommendations of the AIC. In two cases, the EB subsequently submitted a petition for a second opinion to the National Board for Research Integrity (Landelijk Orgaan Wetenschappelijke Integriteit - LOWI). As of the end of 2022, the Executive Board had not yet taken a final decision on these cases.

Anonymous complaints

No anonymous complaints were received by the AIC during the year 2022.

Publication of recommendations

The anonymised reports of the AIC, including the statement of the Board's final decisions, can be found on the [Universities in the Netherlands \(UNL\)](#) website six weeks after completion of a case, with the exception of cases that have been dealt with under an abbreviated procedure. LOWI publishes its anonymised recommendations, including the relevant Executive Board 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 [WI page](#) of the VU website.