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Guidelines for handling of cases regarding scientific dishonesty (research misconduct) at the Faculty of Social Sciences

Since 2009 joint guidelines for handling cases on scientific dishonesty (research misconduct) have been effective at the University.

The approval of the new statutes of AAU comprised a resolution that the Academy Council at the individual faculties was assigned to determine guidelines for good scientific practice and handling of complaints regarding scientific dishonesty (research misconduct). The guidelines for handling of complaints regarding scientific dishonesty (research misconduct) are listed below.

Further to these guidelines the Academy Council shall discuss the guidelines for good scientific practice in order to find the best ways to prevent cases of scientific dishonesty (research misconduct).

The guidelines shall apply for?

The guidelines shall apply for academic staff employed at the Faculty of Social Sciences, publishing under the auspices of AAU¹, also including PhD theses and doctoral theses.

The definition of 'Scientific dishonesty (research misconduct)?

'Scientific dishonesty (research misconduct) is defined as: falsification, fabrication, plagiarism and other serious violations of good scientific practice committed wilfully or gross negligent in planning, performing, or reporting research results' (Ministerial Order no. 306 of 20 April 2009, Section 2)

Procedure for handling of cases regarding scientific dishonesty (research misconduct)

- Any suspicion of scientific dishonesty (research misconduct) shall be considered to the required extent.

¹ Reference is made to the Ministerial Order regarding Scientific Dishonesty (research misconduct), section 4 and 5, schedule 1

- On behalf of the Dean the secretariat at the Faculty of Social Sciences has the authority for the handling of any case related to scientific dishonesty (research misconduct).
 - A notice of any suspicion, filed anonymized or not, will be examined in order to find out whether the notice is warranted or unwarranted. In this phase the University's measures to prevent plagiarism form an important part.
 - Subject to the Public Administration Act the identity of the informer shall be registered, if at all possible², and subsequently the informant cannot be promised anonymity.
 - The preliminary investigation of the case shall be presented to the Dean. If the Dean is unable to reject the notice as unwarranted, the Dean appoints a practice committee consisting of 3 members of the academic staff; the members shall as minimum level associate professors.³
 - If the notice cannot be assessed as being unwarranted, the author shall be notified of the investigation and the further procedure; see The Act on processing Personal Data, Section 29, subsection 1.
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- The tasks of the practice committee will be:
 - To assess whether it is a case of scientific dishonesty of such nature that the case shall be handled in the Committees on Scientific Dishonesty (DCSD) (Ministerial Order no 306 of 20 April 2009, Section 1)
 - If the case is assessed to relate to actual scientific dishonesty the case is presented to the Dean. Subsequently the Dean decides whether the case shall be submitted to DCSD.
 - If the case is NOT assessed to relate to scientific dishonesty or if the case is only a minor offence, the case shall be presented to the Dean for a final decision.

Approved by the Academy Council 18 September 2013

² Rules of procedure haven been drafted in order to outline and ensure the administrative rules and regulations

³ Rules of procedure for the practice committee shall be drafted