Academic Staff Association of The University of Hong Kong
Room 10-15, K K Leung Building,
The University of Hong Kong,
Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong
Tel/Fax: 2859 1073
Email: asahku@hkucc.hku.hk

香港大學教師及職員會
香港薄扶林道
香港大學
梁銶琚樓 10-15 室
電話/傳真: 2859 1073
電子郵箱: asahku@hkucc.hku.hk

Written Views

University governance is responsible for academic standards, integrity, research and other important qualities. Integrity can be understood as academic integrity, research integrity and university integrity and research can be understood as research output, research funding from both public and private sources and monitoring the proper use of funding.

Recently, there were two committees, disciplinary committee (DC) and investigation committee (IC) for the students and the professor respectively, formed at HKU to look into alleged research misconduct on a RGC funded research study as widely reported by media. The outcome of the two committees was that both parties were cleared from research misconduct despite tampered results according to news reports.

Part 1: UGC policy

1. What is the UGC policy on data falsification in published research funded by UGC grants?
2. What is the UGC policy on funded proposal based on falsified data in published research?
3. What is the UGC policy on the handling of fund spent on falsified research? Is there any discussion on plans and practices for collecting those public fund back?
4. What is the UGC policy on reporting using public fund to conduct falsified research to law enforcement such as ICAC? This also includes using falsified research to secure more public fund.
5. What is the UGC policy on inaction of university to report falsified research using UGC funds to UGC?

Part 2: The RGC disciplinary committee on HKU

1. It was reported by the secretary of education bureau that a disciplinary committee was formed at RGC on HKU, and media reported that HKU has submitted IC documents to RGC. Since two committees DC and IC were formed to look into alleged research misconduct related to RGC fund, we opine that RGC must also obtain DC documents from HKU in order to see the whole picture.

Part 3: Handling of research misconduct at HKU

1. For instance, we opine that the decision to use a non-scientist disciplinary committee (DC) to handle students' research misconduct in scientific research as widely reported is outdated when compared to the rest of world class universities. First class universities such as UC Berkeley,

Stanford, Princeton and MIT all use investigation committee (with scientist panel members) for students' research misconduct.

2. There are many concerns arise from this research misconduct case such as the handling of retaliation and protection of whistleblowers, the disparity in handling of research misconduct from international universities, the potential conflict of interest between the handler and the respondent, the university integrity is in question, procedural irregularity is a shield to appeal etc.

Executive Committee

Academic Staff of Association of The University of Hong Kong