GSF Co-ordinating Committee for Facilitating International Research Misconduct Investigations – Status Report

ESF Workshop on Research Integrity November 17-18, 2008

Representation

- Co-Chairs: Tina Boesz, US and Nigel Lloyd, Canada
- 23 countries and international bodies represented

Representation

- Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Denmark, EC, ESF, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Switzerland, UK, US, UNESCO, OECD
Meetings

- Washington, DC, USA (December 3-4, 2007)
- Paris, France (April 21-22, 2008)
- Vienna, Austria (September 11-12, 2008)

Aspects of the Committee’s Work

- Sharing Information and Establishing Networks
- General Principles and Guidance
- “Boilerplate” text for International Agreements
- Communication and Implementation

Sharing Information and Establishing Networks

- Establishing regional networks
- Creating international database of contacts and relevant policies and procedures
General Principles and Guidance

Report will be structured as follows:
- Guidance Notes
- Overarching Principles for Investigating RM
- Procedures for Investigating RM Allegations
- Communication Strategy

Guidance Notes
- Promoting responsible research practices
- Compliance with national laws
- Standard procedures for investigations
- Dissemination

Overarching Principles
- Integrity
- Fairness
- Confidentiality
- No detriment
- Balance
Procedures for Investigations

- Structural requirements
- Scope and clearly framed definitions
- Allegation evaluation
- Clearly defined procedure
- Reporting

Communication Strategy

- Access to information on procedures and standards
- Proportionate to size of project and likely impact
- Information should be available in lay language
- Need for awareness and education
- Need to keep information up-to-date

“Boilerplate” Text

We, the parties, agree:

- to conduct our research according to the standards of research integrity, as defined in OECD documents and other appropriate documents, including: (specify the national codes of conduct, and disciplinary or national ethical guidelines that apply);
- that any suspected deviation from these standards, in particular alleged research misconduct, will be brought to the immediate attention of (all designated contact point[s]) and investigated according to the policies and procedures of (to be filled in with the body with primary responsibility), while respecting the laws and sovereignty of the States of all participating parties;
- to cooperate in and support any such investigations; and
- to accept (subject to any appeal process) the conclusions of any such investigation and to take appropriate actions.
Communication and Implementation

- Distribute framework document to research institutions, scientific academies and societies
- Encourage them to “sign on”
- Approach some appropriate international body to maintain website of bodies that have signed on

Next Steps

- Incorporate feedback from this meeting
- Finalize report through working groups
- Present to GSF in March for approval
- Implement recommendations