

**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
