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Academic integrity challenges and opportunities

ACDICT Learning and Teaching Academy (ALTA) Forum,
UTS,
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Dr Judith Gullifer

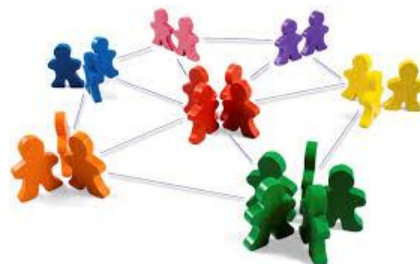
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Millennial Generation = Collaboration

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Dyer, K. A., & Columbia, C. (2010, April). Challenges of maintaining academic integrity in an age of collaboration, sharing and social networking. In *Presentation to the Technology, Conferences, and Community Conference, Honolulu, HI. Retrieved November* (Vol. 3, p. 2010).

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New emphasis?

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Contract
cheating

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Media and Social Norms

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The constant flow of media reports about lapses in integrity among politicians, academics, business people, and just about every other profession one can think of, can create the belief that everyone cheats to get ahead and if you want to be competitive and thrive in today's world, you'll have to do the same. (McCabe, 2005, p. 9 - 10)

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REPUTATION

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Industry

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What challenges to academic integrity can you identify in your institution?

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What is Academic Integrity?

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Fundamental Values Project (ICAI,1999)

Academic integrity is a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental **values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility**. From these values flow principles of behaviour that enable academic communities to translate ideals into action".
(Fundamental Values Project 1999, ICAI)
NOTE: **Courage** added in 2013

Exemplary Academic Integrity Project (EAIP)

"Academic integrity means acting with the values of **honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility** in learning, teaching and research. It is important for students, teachers, researchers and all staff to act in an honest way, be responsible for their actions, and show fairness in every part of their work. Staff should be role models to students. Academic integrity is important for an individual's and a school's reputation." (2012 -2013)

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4.3   The higher education provider protects academic integrity in higher education through effective policies and measures to:
•ensure **the integrity of student assessment**;

•ensure the integrity of research and research activity;

•**prevent, detect and address academic misconduct** by students or staff, including cheating and plagiarism;

•ensure that academic staff are free to make public comment on issues that lie within their area of expertise; and,

•ensure that the awarding of multiple awards, including higher education awards offered in conjunction with another entity, protects the integrity of the higher education awards offered by the higher education provider.

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Higher Education Standards (2015)

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5.2   Academic and Research Integrity

1. There are policies that **promote and uphold the academic and research integrity** of courses and units of study, research and research training activities, and **institutional policies and procedures address misconduct and allegations** of misconduct.

2.   **Preventative action** is taken to **mitigate foreseeable risks** to academic and research integrity including misrepresentation, fabrication, cheating, plagiarism and misuse of intellectual property, and **to prevent recurrences of breaches**.

3.   **Students are provided with guidance** on **what constitutes academic or research misconduct** and the **development of good practices** in maintaining academic and research integrity.

4.   Academic and research integrity and accountability for academic and research integrity are **maintained in arrangements with any other party involved in the provision of higher education**, including placements, collaborative research, research training and joint award of qualifications.

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CSU Experience

39 483 students

Albury, Bathurst, Wagga, Port Macquarie, Dubbo, Orange (10 066)

Online environment (22 461)

Change of Focus

2014 CSU revised the Academic Misconduct Policy to emphasise the value of academic Integrity

-Follow best practice recommendations from recent OLT projects (EAIP, 2014).

-positive aspects of academic integrity and to make sure that terms and definitions are consistent across CSU

-institutional approach to academic integrity that captures all levels including the University, Faculties and Schools as well as staff, researchers and students (where previously just students were targeted)

-stronger understanding of academic integrity across CSU

Misconduct - Student Academic Misconduct Policy

Academic misconduct is defined :

.... to act in a way which could reasonably be expected to defeat the purpose of a learning experience or an item of assessment or an examination. Academic misconduct will normally be evidenced by plagiarism, cheating or collusion (p.2).

CSU Academic Integrity Policy

…means acting with **honesty, fairness** and **responsibility** in learning, teaching and research. It involves observing and maintaining ethical standards in all aspects of academic work.

This policy on academic integrity is based on the following principles:

1.that there is a shared responsibility for academic integrity across the University community;

2.that fostering a culture of academic integrity involves a commitment to learning, teaching and the active promotion of its values and expectations; and

3.that academic misconduct undermines the purpose of learning, teaching and research in higher education.