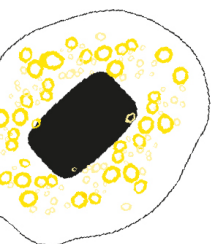
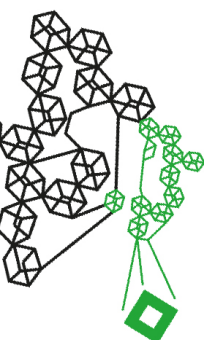
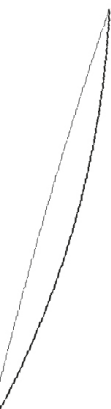


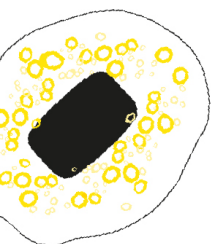
UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.



SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY COMMITTEE

Annual report 2021





COLOFON

SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY COMMITTEE
Service department: Strategy & Policy
CLASSIFICATION: PUBLIC

DATE
February 2022

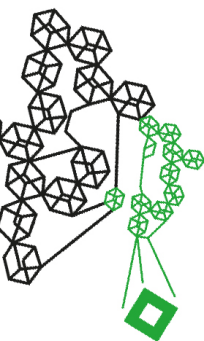
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jessica.greven@utwente.nl

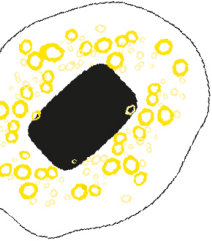
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www.utwente.nl/en/service-portal/organisation-regulations-and-codes-of-conduct/integrity/scientific-integrity

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Introduction

The Scientific Integrity Committee (CWI) advises the Executive Board (CvB) with regard to complaints about possible violations of scientific integrity by (former) employees of the University of Twente. It provides an annual report of its activities and discusses its activities with the responsible portfolio holder of the Executive Board. This English version is a translation of the Dutch version.

1. Composition

On January 1, 2022, the composition of the Scientific Integrity Committee was as follows:

- Prof.mr.dr. M.A. (Michiel) Heldeweg LL.M., chairman
- Prof.dr.ir. P. (Piet) Bergveld (emeritus), member
- Prof.dr. ir. G.J. (Geert) Heijenk, member
- Prof.dr.ir L. (Leon) Lefferts, member
- Prof. dr. J.M. (Jules) Pieters (emeritus), deputy member
- J. (Jessica) Greven LL.B., secretary

The confidential adviser for the complainant is Prof.dr.ir. O.A.M. (Olaf) Fisscher (emeritus). The confidential adviser for the accused is Prof.dr.ir. A. (Alfred) Stein. All confidential advisers draw up an annual report on their activities.

2. Way of working

For each complaint, a committee is formed of at least three members, including (if possible) the chair of the CWI. The committee first assesses whether the complaint is admissible. If this is the case, the committee will meet to assess the substance of the complaint. If necessary, parties are heard during a hearing. The committee also meets after the hearing. Among other things, it will be discussed which further information is necessary to be able to give a proper assessment of the complaint. Ultimately, the committee draws up its advice. This advice is submitted to the complainant and the defendant for checking any factual inaccuracies. Convincing corrections will be incorporated in the final advice. The final advice is submitted to the Executive Board. If necessary or desirable, the chairperson or secretary will explain the advice to the rector in more detail.

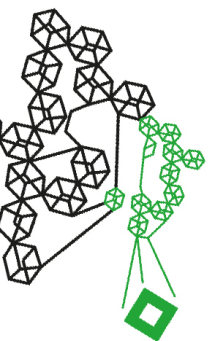
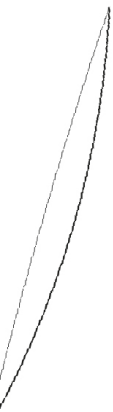
The secretary of the CWI draws up the draft decisions for the Executive Board, as well as the letters that are sent to the complainant and the accused on behalf of the Board. The secretary also handles correspondence between the Executive Board and the National Scientific Integrity Body (LOWI). All correspondence is confidential and will be archived as such.

3. Reporting

According to the UT's Scientific Integrity Complaints Procedure, the CWI accounts for its activities afterwards to the Executive Board in an annual report for the purpose of the university's annual report. This took place on January 20, 2022. The CWI meets with the relevant portfolio holder of the Executive Board and the confidential advisers at least once a year to discuss the annual reports, the state of affairs and points for improvement. These consultations took place on 1 February 2022.

4. Complaints

In the period from 1 June 2020 to 31 December 2021, the Scientific Integrity Committee received four complaints. Following advice from the CWI and the LOWI, one complaint was declared partly founded and partly unfounded by the Executive Board. Three complaints are still pending: this means that either the CWI has yet to issue its advice, or the CvB has issued it provisionally, or the CvB is awaiting the LOWI process. The Executive Board only takes a final decision after the LOWI's advice has been received or after no request has been submitted to the LOWI and the term for submitting a request to the LOWI has expired. One complaint about which the CWI had already issued advice to the Executive Board in May 2020 was declared partly justified and partly unfounded by the Executive Board in the course of 2021, following a LOWI advice.



5. Points of attention and other findings

a. Procedure

Complainants who come forward mainly need clarity. In a few cases it leads to an actual complaint. A complaint can also be submitted to the CWI via the Executive Board. Complainants find confidentiality and anonymity very important, as well as the feeling of being taken seriously and heard: sometimes complaints are related to mutual working relationships. In addition, it requires attention that defendants are often affected by the complaint filed against them.

The CWI lead time from receipt to handling the complaint was mentioned as a point of attention. Capacity problems in the committee and support unfortunately led to longer lead times for cases filed in 2021. The CWI is taking up the task of steering this in the right direction, including by expanding the committee. With regard to the search for committee members, a point for attention is the diversity in the composition of the committee.

In addition, the CWI will be careful not to give more time to the parties or to give an extra opportunity to make written additions, often resulting in longer processing times: this can have negative consequences for (one of the) parties.

b. Media policy

Complaints are placed anonymously on the UNL website and the UT website. Communication to outside the UT about complaints goes through the spokesperson of the Executive Board. Reports or notifications, in whatever sense or manner, must be weighed up per complaint, taking into account the nature and sensitivity of the case. Part of this is coordination between the CWI (chairman and secretary) and the spokesperson for the Executive Board. Parts of information about the content of the complaint must be handled with care. In a national context (CWI meetings, rectors' consultations), case histories can be discussed anonymously and confidentially for the purpose of raising awareness and the learning process. The CWI website will be updated.

c. (After)care

The CWI and the Executive Board consider (after)care in a CWI process important and would like to increase the number of confidential advisers.