

May 8, 2015

From: Morteza Shirkhanzadeh
Sent: May 4, 2015 7:57 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Further breaches of agency policies by Queen's University

Dear [REDACTED]

Regarding the comprehensive review that you have mentioned in your e-mail below dated [REDACTED] I would like to make the following points:

The University is expected to review numerous cases of redundant publication in accordance with the process recommended by the Tri-council Policy. However, the letter dated [REDACTED] from Queen's University makes it very clear that the University does not accept the Framework definition of redundant publication, nor does it appear to accept the RCR Framework Interpretation and the Publication Guidelines <http://www.rcr.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique/interpretations/publication/>. This constitutes institutional non-compliance. It is difficult to understand how the institution can promote awareness of the responsible conduct of research.

The outcome of the comprehensive review is predictable particularly because the [REDACTED] is the same administrator that chaired the investigative committee in 2013 and rejected similar allegations. This gives rise to a reasonable apprehension of bias because the Chair has a pre-determined view which is at odds with the Framework and Framework Interpretation.

To conduct another investigation chaired by the same administrator who has the same incorrect understanding of 'redundant publication' would yield the same decision as in 2013. The rules of natural justice are breached. [REDACTED] is not an impartial decision maker free of bias in this case. The appropriate test for reasonable apprehension of bias at the investigative stage is open-mindedness, i.e., has the issue been pre-determined.

If the allegations of research misconduct were investigated by an investigative body without bias, they would have been dealt with in a timely fashion rather than dragging on to the detriment of everybody involved.

Sincerely,

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