

Practice Committee - Annual Report 2016

Introduction

This is the first annual report from CBS' Practice Committee. CBS established the committee in November 2016 following the result of a working group set up in the spring of 2016.

In August 2016 the working group, which consisted of members appointed by Academic Council as well as two heads of departments (one of which chaired the working group) and representatives from HR and the Dean of Research's office, presented a draft set of rules to govern the Practice Committee. This draft was then adjusted in a dialogue that included Senior Management, Heads of Departments, the Academic Council and the General Consultation Committee.

By Autumn 2016 the final rules governing the Practice Committee were in place and the Academic Council at CBS was offered to appoint its members:

- Chairman: Søren Friis Hansen, personal alternate: Christina Tvarnø
- Member: Lucia Reisch, personal alternate: Kurt Jacobsen
- Member: Hans Christian Kongsted, personal alternate: Torsten Ringberg

It should be noted that the rules governing the Practice Committee were drafted with inspiration from the existing Practice Committee at Copenhagen University, but as opposed to Copenhagen University, CBS decided that the Named Person should not be member of the Practice Committee. Moreover, the Practice Committee was set up with a set of rules taking the advice from the "Oddershede-report" and the expected change of legal framework into consideration, i.e. by focusing on questionable research practice and leaving it up to the Danish Committees for Scientific Dishonesty (UUVU) to deal with cases concerning questions concerning research integrity.

Finally, it should be noted that CBS decided to set up an interim Practice Committee in the spring of 2016 in order to handle a concrete complaint. The interim Practice Committee replaced the existing ad hoc-procedure and prepared the way for the permanent Practice Committee. The interim Practice Committee was abolished once the permanent Practice Committee was in place.

Meetings in 2016

The Practice Committee was established in late 2016, and hence only one meeting has been held. A summary of the meeting can be found on CBS.dk.

Basically, the Practice Committee has decided to focus on concrete cases and await the new legislation before any concrete policy documents regarding e.g. conflict of interests and external funding are put in place.

Concrete cases in 2016

In 2016 CBS received two complaints concerning research practice. The interim Practice Committee handled one of the complaints, but it has been decided to include it in this annual report, not the least as Søren Friis Hansen was chair of the interim Practice Committee and continued as chair of the Permanent Practice Committee.

Case 2016-1: Complaint regarding plagiarism

CBS received a complaint from one member of faculty complaining that another member of faculty had plagiarized part of his research. The involved parties were asked to provide further elaborations on the case and an Interim Practice Committee was set up.

The committee consisted of:

- Professor Søren Friis Hansen, chairman
- Professor Anne-Marie Søderberg
- Professor John L. Campbell

Based on the material, the Practice Committee research a conclusion, which based the complaint on article 4.1 (v) in the Danish Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, i.e. whether the texts of the complainant were appropriately acknowledge by the accused.

The Practice Committee agreed that the lack of citations in the texts by the accused couldn't be considered intentional or resulting from gross negligence.

Furthermore, the Practice Committee agreed that within the framework of questionable research practice it would have been recommendable to provide citations to the work of the complainant.

However, as the work of the complainant does not play a substantive role in the analysis provided by the accused, the lack of citations does not constitute a breach of the obligation to appropriately acknowledge the work and intellectual contributions of the complainant.

Consequently, the Practice Committee decided that the accused had not performed an act of questionable research practice.

Case 2016-2: Case Regarding Publication of Report

By late 2016, the Practice Committee received a complaint regarding the publication of a report. The complaint was sent to the Practice Committee by the Academic Council and Senior Management at CBS.

The Practice Committee began its investigation of the complaint in 2016, but a decision will be reached in 2017. However, the basic content of the complaint relates deliberate and systematic selection (and de-selection) of data and discussion of the results with the intention of biasing the conclusion supplemented by questions regarding conflict of interests, unclear authorship, unclear donor attribution and lack of references.