

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA®
UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AND COMMITMENT

Faculty Center
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2013-2014 Annual Report

UCEC Members:

Dr. Sriniraghavan, **CHAIR** (6/11-5/14)

Pr. Paul Bennett (6/12-5/15)

Dr. Raymond Runyan, Cellular & Molecular Medicine (6/13-5/16)

Ms. Ping Situ, Associate Librarian (6/13-5/16)

Dr. S. Mae Smith (9/12-5/14)

Pr. Karen Zimmermann (6/12-5/15)

Ex-Officio: Dr. Lucinda Rankin, Research Integrity Officer (RIO)

Ex-Officio: Dr. J. D. Garcia, Professor Emeritus, Physics

Mission (from Faculty Constitution, Article V, Section 7)

“The University Committee on Ethics and Commitment shall deal with questions of misconduct in research, scholarship, or creative endeavor; conflict of commitment; and facilities misuse; and receive reports from the Research Integrity Officer. In its deliberations it will use the current versions of the University policies on research integrity, professional commitment and proper facilities use.”

See also the inquiry function of the UCEC as described in UHAP 2.13.09: “Policy and Procedures for Investigations of Misconduct in Scholarly, Creative and Research Activities.”

The committee had two inquiries for the 2013-2014 year. Both panels consisted of three committee members.

The first case involved a faculty member who was charged with academic misconduct allegations. The panel interviewed three witnesses in the matter, with the fourth interview scheduled with the Respondent. The Respondent canceled the interview and did not attempt to reschedule. The Research Integrity Officer informed the Chair of the University Committee on Ethics and Commitment that an informal negotiation between the parties had resulted in settlement of the allegations. The matter was closed.

The second matter involved a recent graduate of the University who accused a faculty member of plagiarism with words, phrases and sentences from the student’s research proposal and Master’s Thesis. The panel found that a reasonable basis does exist to conclude that the allegations of plagiarism are prevalent with submitted materials. The

panel recommended that an Investigation be implemented and that the College of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture should review its policies on plagiarism and its procedures for dealing with difficult student-teacher relationships.

UCEC will hold its annual meeting in the fall semester to elect its Chair and Vice Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Srini Raghavan
Chair, UCEC