

Questions submitted by Senator Bridges for the September 25, 2012 Senate meeting

Student-initiation of AI investigations. What is the procedure by which a student or anyone else may initiate an investigation or file an allegation of a departure from academic integrity by a fellow student, by a faculty member, or by administrators?

Background: Senate's [Academic Integrity Policy Statement](#) (approved by Senate 26 January 2006) states that "Queen's students, faculty, administrators and staff [...] all have ethical responsibilities for supporting and upholding the fundamental values of academic integrity." Likewise, as Jim Lee, then Academic Integrity [AI] Advisor to the Vice-Principal (Academic), emphasized in 2009, "the principles of academic integrity should apply to all members of the university community" ("[The broader scope of academic integrity](#)").

Yet the [Senate Policy on Academic Integrity Procedures](#) (approved by Senate Oct. 2008; revised Oct. 2010; amended Oct. 2011) repeatedly references "students" as the only parties to be investigated for departures from AI (e.g., "Preamble, para. 1; sec. 2.1.1, sec. 4 passim). It offers procedural guidelines for instructors and administrators to investigate departures by and impose sanctions upon students, but offers no procedural guidelines for anyone to investigate departures by instructors and administrators.

Likewise, the Arts and Science webpage "[Departure from Academic Integrity: Guidelines for Instructors](#)" repeatedly references "students" as the only conceivable offenders. No mention or provision is made concerning possible departures from AI by instructors or administrators.

In the 2012-13 Arts and Science Calendar, [Academic Regulation 1: Academic Integrity](#) likewise assumes throughout (e.g., secs. 1.3.1, 1.3.2, 1.3.3(iii), 1.3.4.1) that departures from AI will be by students, and considers instructors and administrators only as potential investigators and disciplinarians. The procedures section (1.4 – Processes for Investigation of Departures from Academic Integrity) envisions only two processes: "Investigation by an Instructor of Suspected Departures from Academic Integrity in a Class" (1.4.1) and "Investigation of Suspected Departures From Academic Integrity by the Associate Dean (Studies)" (Sec. 1.4.3). In both, the only "suspected departures" under consideration are departures by students.

In short, Queen's procedures documents concerning AI are asymmetrical and appear to belie in practice the statement of the Senate Policy that "Queen's students, faculty, administrators and staff [...] all have ethical responsibilities for supporting and upholding the fundamental values of academic integrity," as well as Queen's AI Advisor Jim Lee's affirmation that "the principles of academic integrity should apply to all members of the university community."