The role of Research Ethics Committees to establish integrity awareness in a University research context

National Science and Technology Forum, Discussion Forum on “Ethics and Professional Integrity”, Emperors Palace, Gauteng, South Africa, 19 March 2015

Dr Willem A Hoffmann
Chair: TUT Research Ethics Committee
Independent Ethics Review

Ethics Monitoring

Ethics Reporting

RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEES
TUT ETHICS POLICY

“… to independently evaluate, approve & monitor research that involves humans, animals and the environment within a framework of generally accepted research ethics guidelines”

Policy on Research Ethics, Revised Policy document (Nov 2009)
http://techyum.com/blog%20art/Mouse.jpg
RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEES

Independent Ethics Review

Ethics Monitoring

Ethics Reporting

Ethics Education

Ethics Advice

Guideline Development
Independent Ethics Review

RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEES

Ethics Monitoring

Ethics Reporting

Ethics Education

Ethics Advice

Guideline Development
ANCIENT CURRICULA

Classical Academy Subjects:
• Mathematics
• Literature
• History
• Music
• Gymnastics
• Philosophy (Ethics)

http://www.circleearth.co.uk/Assets/CircleEarth/Media/Generic/Ethics-cloud.png (18 March 2015)
UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON BIOETHICS & HUMAN RIGHTS (2005)

“... ethics committees should ... foster debate, education and public awareness of ... (bio)ethics” [Article 19(d)]

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

- **Academic Fields:** Health Sciences, Arts, Social Sciences, Management Sciences, ICT, Engineering, Law
- **Curriculum Development:** Professional Integrity & Codes
- “Promotional” Material: Posters (Plagiarism)

http://www.theedventuregroup.org/whatmedia/photonomerge2.jpg
(18 March 2015)
POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

➢ Research Ethics Principles: Focus on awareness, knowledge, critical reflection, application, integrity & moral accountability

➢ International & National Guidelines

POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Training:
1) In-depth understanding of research ethics principles;
2) To provide guidance on project ethics to postgraduate students;
3) To be role models of integrity

ETHICS EDUCATORS

- Lecturer/Educator Development: Knowledge; reasoning skills; presentation skills; assessment skills; learners’ moral development
- REC Members: Proven ethics educator skills
- Ethics Education: Specialist field

Socratic Dialogue

Authentic Role models

Theory

Case Study

Head Games

http://sjccopywritingsolutions.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/case-study.jpg  (10 Nov 2012)
ETHICS EDUCATION?

“... ethics cannot be taught but rather, can be learnt through observational and educational learning, and through experiential participation” (Ssebunnya, 2013:49)
RECOMMENDATIONS

1) Tertiary curricula: Development of “ethics” as fundamental concept in all curricula

2) Ethics education scholarship: Recognition as a specialist area (2018 IAEE conference)

3) REC Members: Involve in direct training of postgrad supervisors and educators

http://greengrowthconsulting.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/understanding.jpg (12 Sep 2013)
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REFERENCES


