

CHEA-CIQG Advisory Statement on Corruption in Higher Education: *Who is Waking Up?*

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Who should wake up?

- National governments
- Quality Assurance Agencies
- HEIs
- Faculty
- Students
- Press & Social Media
- Employers
- Professional Bodies



Academic corruption is a
global phenomenon

Some perspectives from Africa



“Elephant cannot give birth to a goat”



Needed:
Awareness
Campaigns and
Sanctions

2016 Efforts of the
Global University
Network for
Innovation (GUNi-
Africa) in promoting
the Advisory



**Global University Network for Innovation (GUNI)-Africa, African
Quality Assurance Network (AfriQAN) and the Association of
African Universities (AAU)**

**8TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOPS ON
QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN AFRICA**

*ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AFRICAN QUALITY ASSURANCE NETWORK
(AfriQAN)*

And
SYMPOSIUM OF RECTORS, VICE-CHANCELLORS AND PRESIDENTS
OF UNIVERSITIES

FOUR EVENTS IN ONE

September 19-24, 2016



- **253 participants
from 38
countries**

Excerpt from the 2016 Communique

- “Adoption of the CHEA/CIQG quality principles and the **recommendations of the consortium of CHEA/CIQG and UNESCO-IIEP in combating academic corruption.**”

GUNi-Africa-All-Africa Students Union (AASU) Partnership

- Joint regional and national workshops on combatting corruption in higher education



- Launch in March 2017 of a *Facebook* account on combating corruption

Partnership with CAMES



The Nigerian Case Study



The Nigerian Case Study of Prevention of Academic Fraud

- **Partnership between national anti-corruption agency (ICPC) and national quality assurance agency (NUC)**

The Study: University System Study and Review

- Conducted in 2012
- Involved public (federal and state) and private universities.
- Joint venture between ICPC (anti-corruption agency) and NUC (quality assurance agency)
- Data collected from staff, students, management, unions, parents and members of the host communities.



Highlights of Prevention Template



**INDEPENDENT CORRUPT PRACTICES AND
OTHER RELATED OFFENCES COMMISSION**

In partnership with

NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION

University System Study & Review

**Template for the Prevention of
Corrupt Practices in the Nigerian
University System**

Admissions, Enrolment and Registration of Courses

Associated corrupt practices

- Non-adherence to the carrying capacity of the National Universities Commission (NUC)
- Non-adherence to rules and regulations guiding admission
- Political interference in the admission process of the University
- Inadequate funding which encourages Universities to engage in over enrolment of students in order to generate IGR to run the Institution
- Lack of proper monitoring and the absence of punitive measures taken against the University by NUC

Preventive Actions

By the University

- Strict adherence to approved NUC carrying capacity for institutions with monitoring by supervisory agencies
- Staff selection process should ensure only people of integrity are appointed as they would be crucial to the admission process. (see further under Appointment)
- Admission of students based on merit only and discretionary admissions be applied with set criteria to avoid abuse
- Provision and/or expansion of infrastructure to cater for enrolled/admitted students
- Insulating officials involved in admission processes from Political pressure
- Elimination of supplementary admission lists to check financial inducement and extortion
- Stipulating a time table for admissions and ensuring that the exercise starts & rounds off within same time to eliminate room for unnecessary pressure on officials
- Adequate funding by the proprietor

- Development of an admission policy that prescribes severe sanction against any staff influence the admission process against the guideline
- Post-UTME screening should be preceded by counselling sessions with intending students to acquaint them with the process and discourage infiltration by unscrupulous people
- Conduct of standard post-UTME tests/screening accompanied by proper supervision
- Regular staff orientation on institutional values to emphasise ethics and integrity in the conduct of admission and examinations
- Government to encourage online degrees by addressing the problem of discrimination against holders of online degrees
- Institutions should transit to online-based selection examinations to minimise staff contact with intending students
- Stricter sanctions for infractions
- Revocation of fraudulently procured admission and prosecution of culprits

Preventive actions by ICPC

- Educate the university system and conduct public awareness campaign on corrupt practices associated with admission

Preventive actions by NUC

- Stricter sanctions for universities exceeding carrying capacities
- NUC should ensure regular monitoring of universities
- NUC should work with JAMB and universities to set uniform guidelines for post-UTME exercises in Nigerian universities

Preventive actions by JAMB

- JAMB to improve on the biometric check of candidates
- Recruitment of invigilators with integrity
- JAMB to ensure adherence to criteria and admission quota for each university

Preventive actions by other stakeholders

- Professional bodies such as the Nigerian Medical and Dental Council, the Council of Legal Education and the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria, should ensure strict compliance with admission policy to universities
- National Board of Technical Education and National Council for Colleges of Education should as a matter expand into other sectors of tertiary education, viz., the Polytechnics and Colleges of Education in order to reduce pressure on the universities and discourage undue resort to unethical practices by intending students
- Ministry of Education should encourage vocational and entrepreneurial education to reduce on pressure of demand for university education
- Government though the Head of Service should address the problem of placements of polytechnics and colleges of education relative to their university counterparts

Examination Administration, Award of Degrees and Graduation of Students

Associated corrupt practices

- Sale of examination questions and other examination-related information
- Gratification and inducement to manipulate award of marks/grades
- Swapping of grades
- Writing of examination by proxy
- Direct cheating in examination
- Delay in the release of results
- Delay of students from graduating due to poor record keeping and deliberate victimisation by officials
- Manipulation of internal examination processes

Preventive actions by the University

- Installation of CCTV cameras at strategic places within examination halls
- Question papers should be printed on the day of the examination to reduce leakages
- More careful selection of people of integrity to handle examinations
- Computerization/Automation of the entire record(Administrative & Academic) management system from department to all relevant organ
- There should be a policy on a stipulated time line for Lecturers to process results- two weeks after exams
- Provision of a platform for students to report any form of victimisation
- Introduction of standard record keeping system and upholding of official discipline
- Training & retraining for Administrative staff on record keeping
- Enforcement of the University's code of conduct for examination

- Enforcement of the University's code of conduct for examination
- Allotment of manageable number of courses to lecturers
- Rules and regulations relating to examination management should be made public and infractions should be met with appropriate punishment
- Departmental examination board must sit over results to verify the correctness of results as computed by the Department's exams officer before forwarding further, this is to check manipulation of results at the department's level
- Results should be presented to Senate no later than six weeks of completion of examinations after processing through relevant departmental and faculty committees
- Stipulation of sanctions such as stoppage of salary for Departments that default in meeting deadlines for presentation of results

- Design an instrument for measuring students' attendance (Development of a class list that contains students' passport to check impostors, and ensure that students sign-off on submission of their script)
- Personalized Career Guidance and Counselling for intending Students
- Students should be re-oriented on placing emphasis on personal development as against just passing examinations
- Students should be encouraged to read the Students' Handbook to familiarize themselves with examination rules and procedures and sanctions for malpractices
- Every University should develop core values, institutionalize same and make their students buy into them
- Adequate male and female invigilators should be provided in examination halls to screen students before they are allowed entry into the examination halls
- Adequate intelligence should be deployed in the monitoring of examinations

- Rules and regulations guiding the conduct of examinations should be pasted on notice boards at least one week before the commencement of examinations
- Interactive sessions should be organized for students about a week to the examination to remind students of the 'dos' and 'don'ts' of examination
- Arrangement of seats in the examination halls should be such that students are adequately spaced to curb malpractices and enhance effective supervision
- The relevant Examination Boards (Departmental, Faculty and Senate) must meet as and when due to preserve the integrity of examination records

- Lecturers should alleviate students fear for examinations by avoiding discouraging comments
- Examination Monitoring Teams should be set up for Distance Learning Programmes and similar standards used for conventional programmes upheld
- To tackle delay in grading of scripts and release of results, marking schemes should be forwarded by lecturers alongside examination questions to enable other lecturers assist in grading scripts for large classes

Preventive actions by ICPC

- ICPC should establish student anti-corruption vanguard in universities to function as whistle blowers
- ICPC should ensure that the Anti-corruption and Transparency Monitoring Unit (ACTU) in universities functions effectively
- ICPC to educate and conduct public awareness campaigns on corrupt practices associated with examination
- Prosecution of offenders by ICPC
- Sensitisation action by ICPC to discourage corruption at other levels of education particularly secondary

Preventive actions by NUC

- NUC to ensure enforcement of sanctions stipulated in approved policies and facilitate the process of review and enactment of new policies with stricter sanctions
- NUC to carry out regular oversight functions.

Corruption in Teaching and Learning

Associated corrupt practices

- Delay in take-off of lectures and non-completion of syllabus by lecturers
- Non-adherence to students/lecturer ratio results in overcrowding of classes
- Lack of commitment to work by the lecturers
- Continued defiance by institutions of the ban on satellite programmes/campuses by NUC
- Frequent strike action by staff and students interrupting the academic calendar
- Sales of lecture notes, hand-outs and Textbooks
- Non-provision of adequate and appropriate practical apparatus
- Late opening and early closing of library

- Stealing and mutilation of library books
- Inadequate/irrelevant (outdated) textbooks
- Inadequate reading tables and chairs
- Corruption in the allocation of official bed spaces in student hostels by the managers; influencing of allocation by students engaging in gratification and bribery of staff
- Sale of accommodation spaces by official occupants to highest bidders by students



Preventive actions by the University

- Avoid excessive workload on lecturers
- Regular payment of staff salary and improved welfare and working conditions
- Employment of lecturers should be based on merit
- Strict adherence to students/lecturer ratio
- Regular taking of attendance of students who attended classes and forward same to the Dean through the HODs on weekly bases
- Adequate provision of learning facilities and conducive environment

- Early commencement of lectures on resumption
- Occasional unscheduled visits to classes by VC or his representative based on developed time-table at the beginning of each semester
- Centralization of all published books and teaching materials which would be sold by the university
- Provision of current & adequate books, learning materials and teaching aids
- Openness and transparency in the allocation of official bed spaces
- Ejection from university hostels of students found to have sold their official bed spaces for profit

Preventive action by other stakeholders

- NUC to enforce sanctions stipulated in approved policies in respect of failure to close satellite campuses
- ICPC working with NUC to educate and conduct public awareness campaigns on corrupt practices associated with establishment of satellite campuses; Prosecution of offenders

Corruption in Research

Associated corrupt practices

- Plagiarism and fraudulent citation
- Diversion of research funds to other uses

Preventive actions by the University

- Improved official funding of staff research
- Utilization of advanced internet search and e-library facilities to find out if a particular topic has been worked upon by others;
- Students' Project Monitoring Teams should be set up
- Lecturers should not be overburdened with supervision in order to ensure thoroughness
- Topics to be researched by students should be agreed with the lecturer/supervisor not decided by the student and merely submitted;
- Student project topics should be targeted at solving environmentally peculiar problems which should be identified periodically;

- Innovation should be encouraged on the part of student and staff
- Before the commencement of project writing, seminars should be organised to build confidence in students in their ability and warn them of dangers of research fraud.
- Students should not be allowed to bring already decided project topics; rather lecturers should work with students to decide on their topics which should, as far as possible, be in the areas of interest to the student.
- As a matter of policy, no lecturer should supervise more than 10 students' projects.
- Library should be well equipped to aid students in project writing.

Emerging Developments

Academic Integrity Index

- To be basis for league table ranking of universities
- Potential to lower rate of academic corruption as universities strive to be ranked high on academic integrity.

Indicators under development...

- Number of proven cases of examination misconduct/malpractice in a given year relative to total student population.
- Proportion of plagiarised undergraduate project reports and higher degree projects, dissertation and theses in a given year.
- Number of proven cases of fudged research data by staff of the university per session.
- Number of proven cases of certificate/academic document falsified in a given year.
- Proportion of dishonest reporting on academic staff by supervising officers in the Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (APER).

- Percentage of examination scripts reported by external examiners to be wrongly graded in favour of or against some candidates.
- Percentage of lecturers who are late to or absent in class per session.
- Percentage of altered (“doctored”) mark sheets proven by faculty boards and Senate in a given session to favour or disfavour candidates.
- Percentage of false claims by students in a session to secure academic advantage e.g. false claim of hospitalisation to explain absence from a scheduled examination.
- Stability index of the academic calendar.
- Proportion of students expelled for certificate forgery relative to total student population.

Establishment of the ICPC Anti-Corruption Academy of Nigeria

- Emerging the nation's leading institution for driving the prevention agenda of academic corruption.
- Headed by an outstanding former VC (Professor Sola Akinrinade)
- **Conducted numerous capacity-building workshops on the prevention of academic corruption.**
- To introduce postgraduate certificate and diploma **programmes** as well as Master's Degree programmes in **Anti-Corruption Studies**.

Other Stakeholders in the prevention of academic corruption in Nigeria

- Association of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities
- NGOs.

Hurdles

- National corruption: Why single out higher education?
- Weak enforcement and sanctioning/punishment system

Silver Lining

- New government with strong anti-corruption posture

Next step

- Universities to embed the prevention template into their internal quality assurance operations.

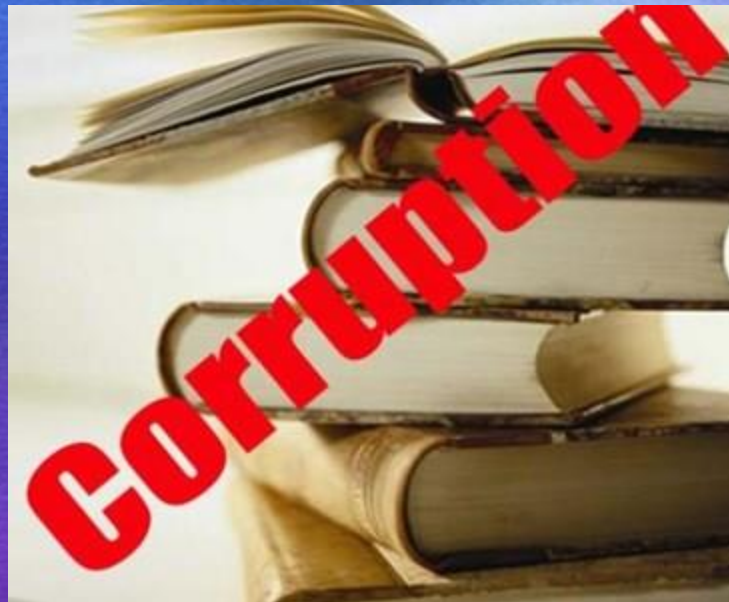
Case Study of Lesotho

- Massive campaign against corruption in higher education using the Advisory as resource.

Outlook for 2017-2019

- September 2017: Workshop on combating academic corruption at the 9th ICQAHEA in Maputo
- 2017-2019: Embedding into AAU projects especially training programmes for higher educational leaders.
- 2017-2019: national workshops on combating corruption organised by GUNi-Africa and its partners.

The fight against academic corruption should continue to be intense until won



Thank you