Fabrication and Falsification: Examples

Fabricating data:

Dr. Eric Poelman was a prominent researcher who held a Canada Research Chair at the Universite de Montreal. This position was stripped when, based on testimony from a former lab technician, he was found guilty of falsifying and fabricating research data on menopause, aging and hormone replacement therapy in several U.S. grant applications and journal article publications from 1992 to 2000. Read the New York Times article from October 22, 2006 for more details about the lab technician’s role in uncovering this misconduct.

Consequences to Dr. Poehlman: stripped of research chair and professorship, $180 000 U.S. fine, prison sentence

Real life examples from UW*:

Masters student falsified marks on transcript from another institution.

Consequence: The student was expelled.

Student falsified signatures on reference letters in an application to a PhD program.

Consequence: The student received academic probation until the end of the PhD program. The student was also required to provide three authentic and verifiable letters from the same referees named on the original application to UW. Failure to provide these three letters would result in expulsion.

Discrepancies were found in the student's transcript from his/her previous institution. The discrepancies included ten altered grades on the transcript and incorrect English translation of the Certificate of Graduation.

Consequence: A deadline was set to arrange for an official academic transcript showing the awarding of a degree and graduation certificate to be sent directly from the previous institution. Those documents were not received and the student was expelled.

* These examples were obtained from the Academic Discipline & Student Grievance Activity section of the UW Office of Academic Integrity website.