

## DEFINITION OF ETHICAL BEHAVIOUR

### FACULTY OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

#### **Definition:**

Ethical behaviour is characterized by honesty, fairness and equity in interpersonal, professional and academic relationships and in research and scholarly activities. Ethical behaviour respects the dignity, diversity and rights of individuals and groups of people. This definition is not a denial of the existence of other ethical duties with respect to practice, professional service delivery, and research.

#### **Fundamental Principles of Ethical Behaviour:**

The fundamental principles of ethical behaviour within the Faculty of Health Professions focus on relationships among and between administration, faculty, staff and students. This focus acknowledges that each profession has a Code of Ethics that guides practice and professional service delivery; and that the university provides additional principles on research and scholarly activities for all faculties.

The fundamental principles stated below are believed to be consistent with other guidelines for ethical conduct within the university.

The fundamental principles of ethical behaviour within the Faculty of Health Professions are:

Each person is personally accountable for his or her actions.

All persons have a shared responsibility to uphold ethical behaviour within the faculty.

The purpose of fundamental principles and accompanying policies and procedures is to facilitate and promote ethical behaviour in contrast to policing cases of unethical behaviour.

Policies and procedures for dealing with unethical behaviour need to reflect an efficient and effective process that avoids obscuring or clouding the issues.

#### **Policies and Procedures for Dealing with Unethical Behaviour:**

Policies and procedures for dealing with unethical behaviour should use the structures that have been developed and approved by Faculty Council for dealing with appeals. We believe that this structure does not compromise policies and procedures currently in place for dealing with unethical behaviour.

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### **Addendum:**

The following definitions from the Oxford Dictionary were used in the wording of the definition of ethical behaviour:

**"Dignity"** - true worth, excellence; high rank or estimation

**"Diversity"** - being unlike in nature or qualities; different kind; variety

**"Equity"** - fairness; recourse to principles of justice to correct or supplement law; system of justice supplementing or prevailing over common and statute law

**"Fairness"** - fair = just, unbiased, equitable, legitimate, in accordance with rules

**"Honesty"** - truthfulness; honest = fair and righteous in speech and act, not lying, cheating or stealing; sincere; showing righteousness;

**"Respect"** - as noun: respect of persons = partiality or favour shown esp. to the powerful; heed or regard to; as verb: pay heed to; regard with deference, esteem, or honour; avoid degrading or insulting or injuring or interfering with or interrupting, treat with consideration, spare, refrain from offending or corrupting or tempting

**"Right(s)"** - justification, fair claim, being entitled to privilege or immunity, thing one is entitled to; authority to act in specified way