

Date
20 August 2020

Our reference
20/07955

Subject
Final judgement of the Board of the University regarding the complaint about academic integrity

Dear Mr Droog,

We recently received the advice of the Netherlands Board on Research Integrity (*Landelijk Orgaan Wetenschappelijke Integriteit*, LOWI) regarding your complaint dated 8 August 2019 concerning the alleged violation of academic integrity committed by Dr A.P.M. van Liempt. The LOWI has sent its advice to you as well.

The complaint regarded the potential infringement of academic integrity, in brief, being culpably careless when writing the PhD thesis *Gemmeker, commandant van kamp Westerbork*, in particular faking, falsifying and plagiarizing information. You indicated that academic integrity was also violated because an explicit research question is missing from the PhD thesis, certain secondary sources were not used, at least not sufficiently referred to, that it is not clear how the thesis relates to the current state of science and that there is a conflict of interest among the various actors who played a role in the realization of the thesis.

In its advice dated 15 December 2019, the Academic Integrity Committee (Commissie Wetenschappelijke Integriteit, CWI) of the University of Groningen recommended the Board of the University to decide that the author had not violated academic integrity. However, the CWI found that the author had committed several inaccuracies. The Board of the University accepted the recommendations in its initial judgement of 19 December 2019. You then requested the LOWI to give advice on the initial judgement.

The LOWI has declared your request to advise that Dr A.P.M. van Liempt had violated academic integrity as unfounded. However, the LOWI confirmed that several inaccuracies were committed. The LOWI also recommended the Board of the University to examine to what extent the author may repair the inaccuracies that were observed. This may be done by modifying the PDF version of the PhD thesis in the University's open access data bank or including a corrigendum in the PDF file. The LOWI stressed that this concerns only the inaccuracies as observed by the CWI and which were confirmed in the advice of the LOWI.

The Board of the University has decided to accept the recommendations of the LOWI in its final judgement. This means the Board of the University will declare your complaint that Van Liempt



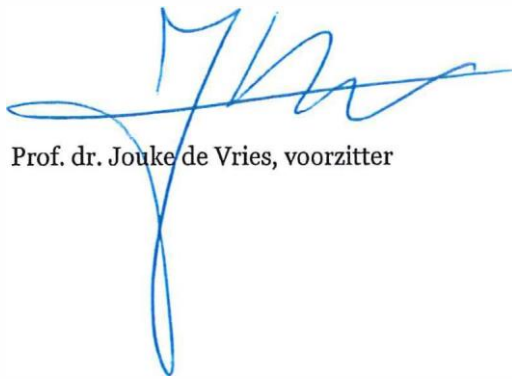
had violated academic integrity as unfounded. Mr Van Liempt has therefore not committed an infringement of academic integrity.

As for the inaccuracies observed by the CWI and confirmed by the LOWI, the Board of the University requests Mr Van Liempt to correct them by modifying the PDF version of the PhD thesis in the University's open access data bank or by adding a corrigendum to the thesis in the open access data bank. Furthermore, the Board of the University assumes that these inaccuracies will be corrected in a next edition of the book version of the thesis.

It should be noted here, perhaps superfluously, that Mr Van Liempt cannot be blamed for circulating his PhD thesis in bookshops before his degree ceremony, as this had been coordinated with the University. Having said this, the Board of the University considers such a procedure undesirable and will ensure that this is prevented in the future.

We will send the author, the Board of the Faculty of Arts and the LOWI a copy of this letter.

Yours sincerely,
The Board of the University of Groningen,



Prof. dr. Jouke de Vries, voorzitter