

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Degree RevocationRECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that the Master of Science degree issued in 2004 to SKS* be revoked, effective immediately.

JUSTIFICATION FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION:

On March 8, 2006, the University of Washington Office of Scholarly Integrity received an allegation of scholarly misconduct against SKS. It was alleged that SKS had reported falsified data and experimental results in four manuscripts and conference proceedings, three of which were published.

On March 13, 2006, SKS was informed that the Office of Scholarly Integrity was in receipt of an allegation of scientific misconduct that required the initiation of an Inquiry into possible scholarly misconduct pursuant to University of Washington Executive Order No. 61.

On April 12, 2006, an inquiry report was issued that concluded that there was sufficient evidence of possible scientific misconduct on the part of SKS to warrant an investigation. On May 10, 2006, consistent with University procedures for investigating allegations of scholarly misconduct, the Dean of the College of Engineering convened an ad hoc investigation committee. On September 12, 2006, the Committee issued a report with the following conclusions and recommended the revocation of the Masters degree that was conferred by the University of Washington to SKS:

“Based on the review of records, interviews of advisors and the admissions of the Respondent, [SKS], the Committee concludes that the Respondent committed scientific misconduct by both fabricating and falsifying data. This misconduct involved four (4) manuscripts as well as the Respondent’s qualifying examination for his Masters degree.”

* Pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, personally identifiable educational records may not be disclosed, so anonymous initials are used herein.

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

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“Action regarding the Respondent:

- 1) The Respondent should be dismissed as a student from the University of Washington.
- 2) The Respondent’s masters degree from the University of Washington should be revoked.”

On October 26, 2006, Vice Provost Eric Godfrey was notified by Dean Matthew O’Donnell of the matter and of the Dean’s concurrence with the Committee’s finding of scholarly misconduct and recommendation of dismissal and degree revocation. Consistent with the Student Conduct Code, the matter was referred to the Faculty Appeal Board for review. On December 4, 2006, SKS informed Vice Provost Godfrey that he chose to waive his right to a formal hearing before the Faculty Appeal Board. The Faculty Appeal Board conducted an administrative review and concluded that SKS’s actions violated the Student Conduct Code, WAC 178-120-020. On December 11, 2006, the Faculty Appeal Board affirmed the initial order of Dean O’Donnell calling for dismissal and degree revocation.

Based upon a review of the record, on December 18, 2006, President Emmert issued a final order finding scholarly misconduct and ordering SKS’s dismissal from the University of Washington. President Emmert also concurred with the Faculty Appeal Board’s recommendation that SKS’s Masters degree should be revoked.

Each year, the Board of Regents authorizes the awarding of degrees pursuant to statute. Because the Board of Regents authorizes the award of degrees, only the Board of Regents can authorize the revocation of a degree.