Codes of conduct for academic staff and students

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Conflicting trends

Challenges

- High competition among students
- Growing pressure on university professors
- Increased autonomy/low management capacity
- Mushrooming of HE providers

Opportunities

- Growing need for the recognition of certificates, diplomas, and courses
- Strengthening of control and audit mechanisms
- Obligation made to HEIs to be certified and accredited
- Better access of the public to information

What is a code all about?

A set of guidelines, which details the set of recognized ethical norms (or values) and professional standards of conduct to which ALL members of the academic community must adhere

FACULTY

ADMINIS-TRATORS

FOCUS
ACADEMIC
INTEGRITY

STUDENTS

PARTNERS

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Objectives of a code

For faculty	For students
- Standardize the ethics of the profession - Enhance regulation of academic staff misconduct - Improve the quality of teaching	- Promote academic integrity - Ensure fairness in academic competition - Reduce student misconduct - Cultivate the culture of mutual trust - Improve the quality of learning

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What scope for the code?

Tool to regulate and prevent cheating and plagiarism:

"You may not claim someone else's work as your own. You may not use unauthorized aids or receive or provide inadmissible support when completing official assessments."

Univ. of Zurich, Switzerland

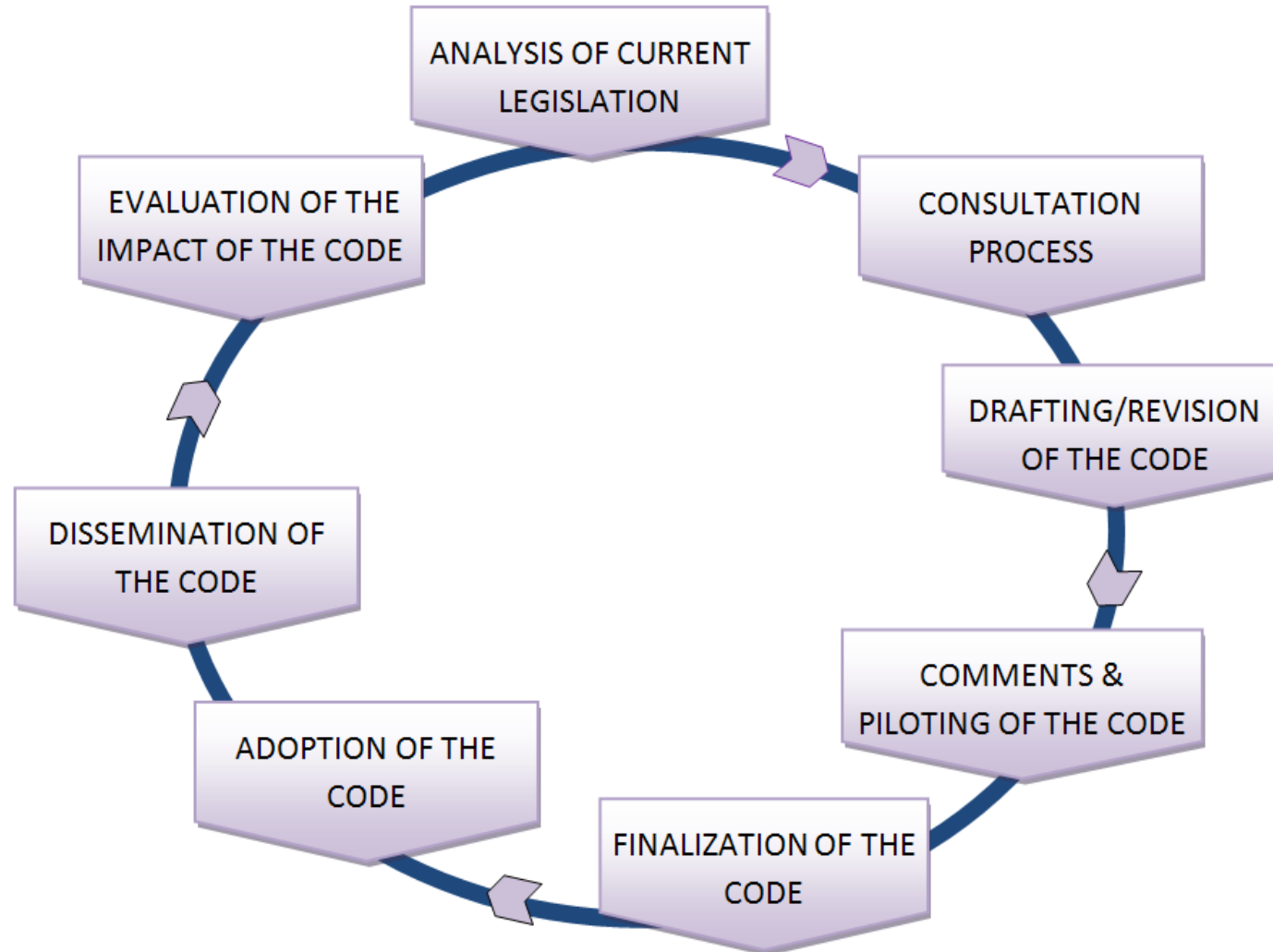With broader focus, to encompass social conduct & community building:

"All members of this community are expected to conduct themselves in a way that contributes positively to an environment in which respect, civility, diversity, opportunity and inclusiveness are valued."

Univ. of British Columbia, Canada

What content for the code?

Tests, exams, assessments	Academic process	Ethical conducts	Research integrity	Community Building
The code addresses ethical issues arising from academic testing, such as cheating, to ensure fairness.	The code takes into account of broader academic matters, including office hours, classroom interactions, etc.	The code regulates students and faculty's everyday behaviors, prohibiting sexual misconducts, physical abuses, etc.	The code is concerned with scholarly research and its pertaining aspects, such as falsification of data, conflict of interests, etc.	The code ought to contribute positively to the overall community by exhorting ever member to behave better and care for one and another

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What steps in code development?

Circular process diagram with the following steps:

- ANALYSIS OF CURRENT LEGISLATION
- CONSULTATION PROCESS
- DRAFTING/REVISION OF THE CODE
- COMMENTS & PILOTING OF THE CODE
- FINALIZATION OF THE CODE
- ADOPTION OF THE CODE
- DISSEMINATION OF THE CODE
- EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT OF THE CODE

With the common use of digital technologies and rise of online classroom, codes need to adapt new challenges and norms.

Harvard University made a major code revision after a collective plagiarism incident in 2017.

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What accessibility of the code?

- For many incoming students in the USA, familiarizing themselves with the campus code of conduct (or honor code) is mandated by the first-year introduction program
- Development of online compulsory tutorials
- "Pledge on honor"

"All new Georgetown University students in the undergraduate schools, the Graduate School of Arts & Science, and the School of Continuing Studies are required to complete the Georgetown University Honor Council's **online Academic Integrity tutorial**.

The tutorial is a part of incoming students' **orientation program** which prepares each student for the college academic and social life."

Georgetown University, USA

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Implications for faculty

Academic staff need to...

- Establish shared values and clarify exceptions

- Create a supportive learning environment

- Design assessments to maximize learning and minimize pressure

Communication with students is key:

"The syllabus should include contact information and office hours for teaching staff, a reading list, dates of hour/midterm exams, due dates for papers or other assignments, plans and expectations for Reading Period, course policy with respect to late work, and the basis on which the course grade will be awarded. It should also include a clear statement about plagiarism and collaboration."

Harvard University Handbook for Faculty, USA

Implications for students

Students need to...

- Engage themselves with designing and monitoring code of conducts

- Create a supportive peer environment for academic integrity

- Conduct themselves to contribute to the school community

Self-regulation and ownership is key:

"As a member of the William & Mary community, I pledge on my honor not to lie, cheat, or steal, either in my academic or personal life. I understand that such acts violate the Honor Code and undermine the community of trust, of which we are all stewards."

Pledge of Honor Code at William & Mary, USA

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Make sure actors are held accountable

Students	Faculty
"A similarity detection software is used to ensure fairness towards honest students, and also to improve the methodological quality in academics. This tool helps identify cases of plagiarism and facilitates the decision-making process of teachers in such situations." HEC Montreal, Canada	"The Student Ombudsman is a third-party reference point that receives requests to intervene on presumed violations of the Honor Code by faculty members. In the event of an alleged breach of the Code by faculty, students may submit a written complaint to the Student Ombudsman." Bocconi University, Italy

THANK YOU

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