



OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR RESEARCH
119 CALIFORNIA HALL #1500

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720-1500

Friday, October 26, 2012

Dear Mr. Lissack,

As indicated in my email message and attached letter of October 22, 2012, I am forwarding to the Investigation Committee your allegation that Deacon in his 2004 book chapter, "Memes as Signs . . .", plagiarized your 2003 journal article, "The redefinition of Memes . . ."

You ask when the committee is required to complete its investigation. Our University policy with respect to research misconduct investigations states: "The investigation phase should be completed within 120 days from the appointment of the investigative committee, unless circumstances warrant a longer period." Since the receipt of additional allegations can expand the scope of an investigation committee's work it is the kind of circumstance that could warrant a longer period.

You have asked additional questions regarding details of the investigation process. As I have informed you, our University policy requires that confidentiality of our investigation process be maintained. Because you have publically stated that you will not maintain confidentiality of any information I provide you regarding the investigation, I am unable to share further details of the process with you.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Price".

Robert Price
Associate Vice Chancellor for Research



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October 22, 2012

Dear Mr. Lissack:

This responds to your October 17, 2012 letter to me asserting two additional plagiarism allegations against UC Berkeley Professor Terrence Deacon.

One of these allegations involves your 2003 article “The Redefinition of Memes: Ascribing Meaning to an Empty Chiche’” and a 2004 book chapter by Professor Deacon titled “Memes as Signs in the Dynamic Logic of Semiosis: Beyond Molecular Science and Computation Theory.” As I understand the allegation, you are claiming that concepts in the earlier publication, specifically of the meme as a “sign” for an “environmental niche,” are so unique that their use in the later publication without attribution must constitute plagiarism. Please confirm my understanding, in which case we will proceed with review of the matter.

In addition to the similarities you specify in your 17 October letter, you offer to provide an analysis of your article and Deacon's book chapter that will reveal an overlap in argumentation that can only be accounted for by plagiarism. You are welcome to provide such an analysis.

As you know from our previous communications, if you want to lodge with the University a complaint of plagiarism against Deacon with respect to Eyan Thompson, Roy Bhaskar, Stanley Salthe and Mark Graves your complaint must be sufficiently specific and sufficiently substantive so that potential evidence may be identified. (see Federal Regulation 42CFR93 and UCB Research Misconduct Policy I.C(1)). Hence if we are to investigate this set of allegations you will need to identify where in the works of the authors you list the plagiarized ideas are found and where, specifically, in *Incomplete Nature* the alleged plagiarism occurred.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Price".

Robert M. Price
Associate Vice Chancellor for Rese