

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
UNIVERSITY TRIBUNAL
TRIAL DIVISION

IN THE MATTER of charges of academic dishonesty made on April 14, 2010

AND IN THE MATTER OF the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters, 1995,*

AND IN THE MATTER OF the *University of Toronto Act, 1971*, S.O. 1971, c. 56 as amended S.O. 1978, c. 88

B E T W E E N:

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO (the "University")

- and -

B P (the "Student")

Hearing Date: August 12, 2010

Members of the Panel:

Ms. Roslyn M. Tsao, Barrister and Solicitor, Chair
Professor Paul Cooper, Faculty of Forestry, Faculty Panel Member
Ms. Gillian Reiss, Student Panel Member

Appearances:

Ms. Lily Harmer, Assistant Discipline Counsel, Paliare Roland Barristers
Mr. B P , the Student

In Attendance:

Professor John Britton, Dean's Designate, Faculty of Arts and Science
Professor Denis Smyth, Course Instructor
Ms. Alexandra Luce, Course Teaching Assistant
Mr. Christopher Lang, Director, Appeals, Discipline and Faculty Grievances

Reasons for Decision
Delivered by Ms. Roslyn M. Tsao

[1] The Trial division of the Tribunal heard this matter on August 12, 2010. The Student was charged on April 14, 2010 of the following:

1. On or about April 30, 2009, the Student represented as his own, an idea or expression of an idea and/or work of another in a paper entitled "The Balkan Causes of World War I" ("Paper") that he submitted to fulfill the course requirements of HIS103Y1Y ("Course"), contrary to section B.I.1(d) of the Code.
2. On or about April 30, 2009, the Student knowingly submitted academic work containing a purported statement of fact or reference to a source which was concocted, with respect to the footnotes contained in the Paper submitted in the Course, contrary to section B.I.1(f) of the Code.

[2] The Student attended at the Hearing and entered a plea of guilty to the above two charges. As a result, the University withdrew the alternative charge of cheating, contrary to section B.I.3(b) of the Code.

Facts of the Case

[3] The University submitted the following facts regarding the offence, which the student did not dispute:

- a) The Student was registered in the Course in the 2009 Winter term. On or about April 30, 2009, the Student submitted the Paper to fulfill the Course requirements.
- b) At the outset of the course, the teaching assistant reviewed the University's policies and protocols regarding the avoidance of plagiarism with the students.

- c) A review of the Paper, when submitted by the Student for grading, demonstrated that significant portions of the Paper were copied verbatim or close to verbatim from unacknowledged sources. The Paper also included footnote citations which were fictitious and did not relate to the text of the Paper. The fictitious citations are presumed to have been added to give the impression that more sources were referred to by the Student than were, in fact.


Decision of the Tribunal

- [4] Based on the foregoing admitted facts, the Tribunal accepts the plea of guilty from the Student.

Penalty

- [5] The Student and University submitted orally the following Joint Submission regarding Penalty:
 - 1. The Student will receive final grade of zero in the Course;
 - 2. The Student will be suspended by the University from August 12, 2010 until August 11, 2012; and
 - 3. The sanction will be recorded on the Student's academic record and transcript from August 12, 2010 until August 11, 2012 or the date the Student graduates, whichever is earlier.
- [6] In light of the facts of this case, the admission of guilt by the Student and the Joint Submission regarding Penalty, the Tribunal accepts the Joint Submission and imposes such penalty.
- [7] The Tribunal shall report this decision to the Provost for publication of a Notice of this decision and the sanction in the University newspaper, with the Student's name withheld.
- [8] An Order with the penalty was signed by the Panel at the hearing.

Dated at Toronto, this 31st day of August, 2010.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'R. Tsao', written in dark ink.

ROSLYN M. TSAO, Barrister and Solicitor
Chair