

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

REPORT NUMBER 219 OF THE ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE

January 9, 1997

To the Academic Board,
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it held a hearing on Thursday, January 9, 1997, at which the following were present:

Before: Ms Bonnie L. Croll, Acting Chairperson
Professor Ethel Auster
Mr. Eric Brock
Professor Mary Chipman
Professor John Mayhall

Ms Rosanne Lopers-Sweetman, Secretary, Academic Appeals Committee

In attendance: Ms N.A., the Appellant
Professor Gordon Anderson, Chair, Academic Appeals Board, Erindale College

Your Committee considered an appeal by Ms N.A. (the "Appellant") of the decision of the Academic Appeals Board of Erindale College dated September 26, 1996. The Board refused to lift the one-year suspension imposed on the Appellant for the 1996-97 academic year by the Committee on Standing at Erindale College.

As a preliminary matter, your Committee considered the Appellant's request for a closed hearing. After some discussion it became clear to your Committee that the Appellant did not understand the difference between a closed hearing and an open hearing. After these differences were explained to the Appellant, the Appellant withdrew the request for a closed hearing.

The suspension under appeal is the second suspension imposed on the Appellant by Erindale College. Previously, the Appellant had been suspended for the 1995-96 academic year by the Committee on Standing at Erindale College. However, in August 1995, the Appellant was successful in appealing this decision to the Academic Appeals Board of Erindale College. As set out in a letter to the Appellant dated August 30, 1995, the Academic Appeals Board lifted the suspension of the 1995-96 academic year with the following restrictions:

- The Appellant was restricted to a course load of a maximum of 3.0 full course equivalents during the 1995-96 Winter Session;

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- The Appellant was to contact the Registrar's Office prior to registering in courses to seek academic counseling;
- The Appellant was to contact the Career Centre for counseling and evaluation regarding the Appellant's academic strengths and suitability to pursue certain academic goals.

In refusing to lift the one-year suspension imposed on the Appellant for the 1996-97 academic year, the Academic Appeals Board in its letter to the Appellant dated October 16, 1996 referred to the terms it had imposed on the Appellant in its decision of August 30, 1995. Specifically, the reasons cited by the Board in refusing to lift the second, one-year suspension were as follows:

- The Appellant failed to produce additional and compelling evidence to warrant overturning the decision of the Committee on Standing;
- When the Appellant appealed the one-year suspension before the Board on August 30, 1995, the Appellant was advised specifically to seek both academic and personal counseling. By the Appellant's own decision, the Appellant did not address that aspect of the contract that was made when the Board granted lifting of the suspension in August, 1995;
- Since the appeal was the second that the Appellant has brought before the Board and for the same reason, the members had no inclination to grant the Appellant's appeal with conditions which the Appellant has demonstrated the Appellant would not observe;
- The members of the Board suggested that the Appellant use the year of [her] suspension to reevaluate the Appellant's goals and educational objectives.

Despite an articulate and poised presentation by the Appellant to your Committee, after considering the evidence, including the complete academic record of the Appellant, your Committee believes that for the reasons given by the Academic Appeals Board, the decision of that Board, dated October 16, 1996, which is appended to this Report, was correct. In particular, your Committee was concerned about the Appellant's failure to actively pursue academic and personal counseling in light of her difficulties. It is the view of your Committee that the Appellant be encouraged to seek such counseling on her return to Erindale College at the expiration of the period of suspension.

The appeal is dismissed.

Rosanne Lopers-Sweetman
Secretary

Bonnie L. Croll
Acting Chairperson

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