

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL
REPORT NUMBER 222 OF THE ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE

November 13, 1997

To the Academic Board,
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it held a hearing, *in camera*, on Thursday, November 13, 1997, at which the following were present:

Professor Ralph Scane, Acting Chair
Mrs. Margo Coleman
Professor Frank DiCosmo
Mr. Paul Lomic
Professor John Mayhall

Ms Rosanne Lopers-Sweetman, Secretary, Academic Appeals Committee

In Attendance:

The Appellant
Professor Ian McDonald, for Scarborough College

At the commencement of the hearing, the Committee considered a request from the Student for a closed hearing. The Committee decided that the required conditions prescribed by the *Statutory Powers Procedure Act* were met, and directed that the hearing be closed.

Your Committee considered an appeal from the decision of the Subcommittee on Academic Appeals of Scarborough College, dated August 18, 1997, which dismissed an appeal from a decision of the Subcommittee on Standing of that College, dated June 16, 1997. That Subcommittee had refused a petition of the Student for an extension of time to submit work and to sit deferred examinations in four courses in which the Student was registered during the 1996 Winter Session, namely HISB09Y, HISA03Y, ENGA11Y and ENGB07Y. At present, the Student is considered to have failed these courses and is now under a one-year suspension, in accordance with the College academic rules. Before this Committee, the Student sought to amend the request for relief to only three of the named courses, omitting ENGA11Y. In view of its disposition of the appeal, the Committee did not find it necessary to consider whether this variation from the petition as considered by the Scarborough College Committees should be permitted.

The Student was originally admitted to the University, at Scarborough College, in the Winter Session, 1995, with a conditional admittance, and registered for four full courses. At

Report Number 222 of the Academic Appeals Committee

the end of the term, the Student petitioned the Subcommittee on Standing of the College for relief substantially similar to that sought in the present proceedings. This petition was supported by her own, and medical evidence of personal and medical problems. The Subcommittee denied relief in the form requested, but did permit withdrawal from all courses without academic penalty. The Subcommittee, in conveying its decision, advised the Student to consider carefully the wisdom of immediately re-enrolling, and to consider a reduced course load.

The Student entered the 1996-97 Winter Session, subject to the original admission condition, and enrolled in the four courses listed above. During this Session, the Student permitted herself to become gravely overextended with extracurricular matters, and failed to complete the evaluation requirements for any of these courses. Not only were all final examinations missed, but very many term tests and assignments were not completed. In fairness, the Student accepts lack of responsibility as the principal cause of the present situation, but asserts that, with personal counseling and medical help, the problem has been seen and understood by her, and that she is now capable of bringing her academic life under control. Essentially, she is not alleging error in the decisions made to date in this proceeding, but is seeking mercy in order to attempt to salvage a year wasted.

As did the Scarborough College Subcommittees, this Committee has some sympathy for the predicament of the Student, but finds no sufficient basis for giving relief from the normal working of the academic rules of the College. This Committee does not consider that it can improve upon the reasons for judgment of the Subcommittee on Academic Appeals of Scarborough College, appended hereto, with which it agrees.

The appeal is dismissed.

Rosanne Lopers-Sweetman
Secretary

Ralph Scane
Acting Chairman

November 13, 1997