

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
UNIVERSITY TRIBUNAL  
TRIAL DIVISION**

**Members of the Panel:**

**Michael Hines**, Co-Chair

• **Sara Ageorlo**, Student Panel Member

• **Graham Trope**, Faculty Panel Member

**IN THE MATTER** of the *University of Toronto Act, 1971*, S.O. 1971, c. 56, as amended;

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

**AND IN THE MATTER** of disciplinary charges against M.Z.

**No one appearing** - for M.Z.

**Robert A. Centa** and **Michael Nicholson** - for the University

1. The Trial Division of the University Tribunal was convened on September 26, 2007 to consider charges under the *University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters, 1995* (the "Code") laid against the Student by letter dated May 8, 2007 from Professor Edith Hillan, Vice-Provost, Academic.
2. The Vice-Provost's letter advised the Student that she had been charged with four offences concerning two essays that she had submitted to fill the course requirements of PHL 351 and PHL 342. Specifically, in respect of each essay she was charged with plagiarism under section B.1.1(d) and academic dishonesty contrary to section B.1.3(b) of the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters, 1995* ("Code").
3. The matter proceeded before the Tribunal on September 26, 2007. The student did not attend. The Assistant Discipline Counsel for the University of Toronto advised the Panel that he had reached an Agreed Statement of Facts with the student concerning the matters in question, and that she was content that the hearing proceed in her absence based upon the agreed-upon document. The Agreed Statement of Facts is reproduced immediately below.

4. Exhibit 3:

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

And

M.Z.

**AGREED STATEMENT OF FACTS**

1. The University of Toronto admitted the student to the University's Bachelor of Arts and Science program at the St. George campus in the Fall of 2002. A copy of the student's academic record as of October 16, 2006 is attached to the Agreed Statement of Facts at **Tab A**.
2. In the Fall of 2006, the student was enrolled in six half courses, including PHL351H1 (Philosophy of Language) and PHL342H1 (Minds and Machines). The University has alleged that the student committed an academic offence in both Philosophy of Language and Minds and Machines.

**Philosophy of Language**

3. The student enrolled in Philosophy of Language in Fall 2006. It was a third year course in the Department of Philosophy which was taught by Professor Niko Scharer.
4. Philosophy of Language examined the relationship between language and mind that leads philosophers to reflect upon meaning and truth, as well as language as a means of both communication and action. A copy of the course outline for Philosophy of Language is attached to this Agreed Statement of Facts at **Tab B**.
5. The course requirements included an essay which was worth 40% of the final mark in Philosophy of Language.
6. On or about April 17, 2006, the student submitted her essay entitled "*On Theory of Description*". A copy of the student's essay is attached to this Agreed Statement of facts at **Tab C**.
7. After Professor Scharer challenged the student regarding the lack of references in *On Theory of Description*, the student stated that she had handed in an incomplete version of the essay. On or about April 27, 2006, the student submitted a revised version of her essay, which contained citations and references that were not present in the essay she had first submitted on April 17, 2006. According to the student, the citations and references had been omitted from the first essay through inadvertence as a result of accident and/or error. A copy of the essay submitted by the student on April 27, 2006 is at **Tab D**.

8. The student did not write *On Theory of Description*. Instead, she copied substantial segments from a website that she did not reference or otherwise acknowledge. The relevant pages from the website are attached to this Agreed Statement of Facts at **Tab E**.
9. Attached to this Agreed Statement of Facts at **Tab F** is a copy of *On Theory of Description*, which has been highlighted in yellow. The words that are highlighted were taken verbatim from the websites.
10. The student admits that she did no meaningful academic work in respect of *On Theory of Description*. Specifically, the student admits that on or about April 17, 2006, she knowingly represented as her own, an idea, an expression of an idea, and the work of another in *On Theory of Description* which she submitted to fulfill the course requirements of Philosophy of Language, contrary to s. B.I.1(d) of the *Code*.
11. The student admits that she is guilty of Charge #1 contained in the charges dated May 8, 2007 filed by the University, a copy of which is attached to this Agreed Statement of Facts at **Tab G**.

#### **Minds and Machines**

12. In the Fall of 2006, the student enrolled in Minds and Machines, which was a third year philosophy course taught by Professor Evan Thompson.
13. Minds and Machines examined the mind in relation to its mental processes and explored such topic areas as philosophical foundations of artificial intelligence theory; the computational theory of the mind; functionalism vs. reductionism and the problems of meaning in the philosophy of mind. A copy of the course outline for Minds and Machines is attached to this Agreed Statement of Facts at **Tab H**.
14. In order to fulfill the course requirements, students were required to write quizzes and submit papers, including a final paper which was worth 20% of the final mark in Minds and Machines.
15. On or about April 17, 2006, the student submitted a paper entitled "*Artificial Life vs. Artificial Intelligence*". A copy of the student's paper is attached to this Agreed Statement of facts at **Tab I**.
16. The student did not write *Artificial Life vs. Artificial Intelligence*. Instead, she copied it nearly in its entirety from online sources that she did not reference or otherwise acknowledge. The relevant pages from the websites are attached to this Agreed Statement of Facts at **Tab J**.
17. Attached to this Agreed Statement of Facts at **Tab K** is a copy of *Artificial Life vs. Artificial Intelligence*, which has been highlighted in yellow. The words that are highlighted were taken verbatim from the websites.
18. The student admits that she did no meaningful academic work on *Artificial Life vs. Artificial Intelligence*. Specifically, the student admits that on or about April 17, 2006, she knowingly represented as her own, an idea, an expression of an idea, and the work of another in *Artificial Life vs. Artificial*

*Intelligence*, which she submitted to fulfill the course requirements of Minds and Machines, contrary to s. B.I.1(d) of the *Code*.

19. The student admits that she is guilty of Charge #3 contained in the charges dated May 8, 2007 filed by the University (at Tab G to this Agreed Statement of Facts).

### **Conclusion**

20. If she or a duly authorized agent appear before the University Tribunal, the student will plead guilty to charge #1 and #3 of the charges filed by the University of Toronto.
21. The student acknowledges that the University of Toronto has advised her to obtain independent legal advice before signing this Agreed Statement of Facts and that she has either done so or deliberately waived that right.

Signed in Hong Kong on August 15, 2007

"M.Z."

M.Z.

[signature]

Witness

Signed in Toronto on September 15, 2007

"Robert A. Centa"

Robert A. Centa

5. On the basis of this Agreed Statement of Facts, the Panel reached a finding that the student was guilty of plagiarism under charges #1 and #3 as listed in the Notice of Hearing. On consent, charges #2 and #4 concerning academic dishonesty were withdrawn.

6. The Panel was advised further that the student had also agreed to a Joint Submission on Penalty. That Joint Submission is now reproduced immediately below.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

and

M.Z.

**JOINT SUBMISSION ON PENALTY**

1. The University of Toronto and M.Z. submit to the Tribunal that the appropriate penalty in all of the circumstances is:
  - a. The student be suspended from attendance at the University of Toronto for a period of three years from the date of this hearing;
  - b. assignment of a grade of zero in each of PHL351H1 and PHL342H1 for the 2006 Winter term; and
  - c. notation on the student's transcript to the effect that she was sanctioned for academic misconduct for a period of three years from the date of this hearing.
2. The University of Toronto and the student submit that the Tribunal should report this case to the Provost who may publish a notice of the decision of the Tribunal and the sanction or sanctions imposed with the student's name withheld.

3. The student acknowledges that the University of Toronto has advised her to retain independent legal counsel before signing this Joint Submission on Penalty and that she has either done so or deliberately waived that right.

Signed in Hong Kong on August 1st, 2007.

"M.Z."

M.Z.

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Witness

Signed in Toronto on September 26th, 2007.

"Robert A. Centa"

Robert A. Centa

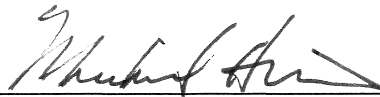
Assistant Discipline Counsel,  
University of Toronto

7. As reflected in paragraph 1 of the Joint Submission, the parties reached an agreement on the appropriate penalty in all of the circumstances of the case. The Panel reviewed this agreement and concluded that it did, indeed, reflect an appropriate penalty.
8. Accordingly, the Panel hereby imposes the following sanctions, namely that the student:
  - (a) be suspended from attendance at the University of Toronto for a period of three years, with the suspension to run from September 26, 2007 to September 26, 2010;
  - (b) shall be assigned a grade of zero in each of PHL351H1 and PHL342H1 for the 2006 Winter term; and
  - (c) shall have her transcript bear a notation that she was sanctioned for academic misconduct for a period of three years until September 26, 2010.

The Panel further recommends that this case be reported to the Provost who may publish a notice of the decision of the Tribunal and the sanction or sanctions imposed with the student's name withheld.

9. I certify that this is the decision of the Panel:

DATED at Toronto this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Hines", written over a horizontal line.

Michael A. Hines