

**UNIVERSITY TRIBUNAL
THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

IN THE MATTER OF charges of academic dishonesty made on February 18, 2014

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 -

J [REDACTED] G [REDACTED] (the "Student")

REASONS FOR DECISION

Hearing Date: April 2, 2014

Panel Members:

Ms. Roslyn M. Tsao, Chair

Professor Wayne Enright, Department of Computer Science, Faculty Panel Member

Mr. Michael Dick, Student Panel Member

Appearances:

Mr. Robert Centa, Assistant Discipline Counsel for University, Paliare Roland Barristers

No one appearing for the Student

In Attendance:

Ms. Kasha Visutskie, Office of Academic integrity, Faculty of Arts and Science

Ms. Natalie Ramtahal, Coordinator, Appeals, Discipline and Faculty Grievances

1. The Trial Division of the Tribunal heard this matter on April 2, 2014. The Student was charged on February 18, 2014 with plagiarism in ENG322Y1Y ("Course") on or about November 27, 2013. The Student was also charged in the alternative with engaging in a form of cheating, academic dishonesty or misconduct, fraud or misrepresentation not otherwise described in the Code.

Decision of the Tribunal

2. The University and Student submitted an Agreed Statement of Facts ("ASF") and Joint Book of Documents ("JBD") in this matter.
3. At paragraph 4 of the ASF, the Student has requested that the Hearing Tribunal proceed in her absence. As such, the Panel proceeded in her absence.
4. At paragraphs 10 and 11 of the ASF, the Student admits that she knowingly plagiarized certain original material for her essay submitted in the Course on November 27, 2013.
5. It is noted that the Student not only reproduced passages from the original work but that she also failed to attribute or appropriately use quotation marks and failed to list the original work in her cited works.
6. As such, there will be a finding of guilt on the first charge pursuant to section B.I.1(d) of the Code. The University withdraws the alternative charge under section B.I.3(b) of the Code.

Penalty

7. The Student and University submitted the following Joint Submission on Penalty:
 - (a) Student will receive a zero in the Course;
 - (b) Student will be suspended for four (4) years from the University commencing the date of the Order; and
 - (c) a notation of the sanction will be made on the Student's academic record and transcript until her graduation from the University.

8. The Student has been sanctioned for academic misconduct, in particular plagiarism, on two prior occasions:
- (a) In 2009, the Student admitted that she had committed plagiarism and was sanctioned with a grade of zero and a 25 mark reduction in her final grade. At that time, the Student was warned in writing about such misconduct in the future and given the advice that she improve her method of transcribing passages in her researching and writing skills.
 - (b) Unfortunately, in 2011, the Student again committed plagiarism in an assignment and again, admitted her guilt. The Student was sanctioned with final grade of zero and suspended from the University for a 12-month period. She was again, warned in writing about such misconduct in future.
9. Accordingly, the within offence constitutes the third distinct incident of plagiarism for this Student. A four (4) year suspension, in the circumstances, is an appropriate, if not lenient, disposition.
10. The Panel was advised that the Student is no longer enrolled at the University and that she has fully cooperated with the prosecution of this offence.
11. The Tribunal accepts the Joint Submission on Penalty in these circumstances. A draft Order was signed at the hearing by the Panel to that effect.
12. The Tribunal is to report this decision to the Provost for publication of a notice of the decision of the Tribunal and the sanctions imposed in the University's newspapers, with the name of the Student withheld.

Dated at Toronto, this 10th day of April, 2014.



Roslyn Tsao, Co-Chair