

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
GOVERNING COUNCIL**

Report #320 of the Academic Appeals Committee  
**June 22, 2007**

Your Committee reports that it held a hearing on April 27, 2007 at which the following were present:

Assistant Dean Kaye Joachim, Chair  
Professor Jan Angus  
Mr. Kristofer Coward  
Professor Ellen Hodnett  
Professor John Wedge

Ms. Nancy Smart, Judicial Affairs Officer

**In Attendance:**

The Student did not attend

For the University of Toronto Mississauga:

Gordon Anderson, Chair, Academic Appeals Board, UTM

**The Appeal**

This is an appeal for late withdrawal without academic penalty from PSY102H5F and PSY340H5F.

**Non-Attendance by Student**

The Student did not attend the hearing scheduled for 9.30 a.m. on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The committee waited until 10:10 a.m. and then proceeded to hear from UTM in her absence. The Committee then adjourned and asked the Secretary to contact the Student to seek the reasons for the non-attendance.

The Judicial Affairs Officer emailed the Student at her University email address on May 4, 2007; by May 30, 2007 she had not received a response. The Committee finds that the Student, having been given proper notice to attend the appeal, failed to do so without a reasonable excuse.

The Committee has made its decision based on the written material filed by the Student and the material presented by UTM.

**The Decision**

The Student has been registered in Faculty of Arts & Science at University of Toronto, Mississauga campus from fall 2002 to the present.

In the fall 2003 term the Student was granted late withdrawal in PSY220H5 without academic penalty and advised that she would be held to faculty deadlines in the future. In summer 2004 the Student was granted late withdrawal without academic penalty in STA220H5 and in the fall of 2004 was granted special permission to write a deferred exam in PHL274H5 and PSY344H5.

In fall of 2005 the Student was taking three courses: PSY201H5F and PSY340H5F and PSY310H5. The student successfully completed PSY310H5 in the normal manner and obtained a C+.

On December 14, 2005, the Student sought late withdrawal from PSY201H5F and PSY340H5F due to illness during the term. This was denied and the Student scored failing grades of 30 and 26 in those courses.

At the initial petition hearing, the Student presented a medical note dated December 14, 2005 which stated that the Student had been ill throughout the term. The petition for late withdrawal without academic penalty was denied on the basis that the Student should have withdrawn from the course before the deadline in light of the illness.

At the Academic Appeals Board the Student submitted a second medical note dated May 2006 which stated that the Student had been seen on December 13 and 14, 2005 and reported being ill from September 2005, but improved until mid-November and then deteriorated again in late November 2005. The Student submitted in her notice of appeal that the decision not to withdraw in a timely fashion was due to the improvement in her condition and the sudden deterioration of her condition in late November.

The Committee is not satisfied that the medical evidence supports the Student's appeal. The evidence indicates that the Student first sought medical attention on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005 for a condition that she asserted had been present since September 2005. The assertion of improvement and then deterioration first surfaces in response to UTM's decision that the Student should have withdrawn from the course due to the illness, and is not credible. The Student was able to attend the exam in another course, PSY310H5, during the same period and obtained a C+

The appeal is denied.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaye Joachim  
Chair