

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
UNIVERSITY TRIBUNAL
TRIAL DIVISION

IN THE MATTER charges of academic dishonesty made on July 8, 2009

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;

BETWEEN:

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

- and -

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G

Hearing Date: September 8, 2009

Members of the Panel:

Mr. Michael Hines, Barrister and Solicitor, Chair
Dr. Annette Sanger, Faculty of Music, Faculty Member
Mr. Jamon Camisso, Student Member

Appearances:

Mr. Robert A. Centa, Assistant Discipline Counsel, Paliare Roland Barristers
Professor Berry Smith, Vice-Dean, Students, School of Graduate Studies

In Attendance:

Mr. Ö G , the Student, not in attendance

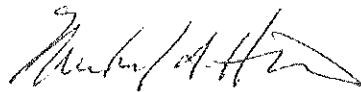
1. The Trial Division of the University Tribunal was convened on September 8, 2009 to consider charges under the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters, 1995* (the "Code") laid against Mr. G by letter dated July 8, 2009 from Professor Edith Hillan, Vice-Provost, Faculty & Academic Life.
2. The Vice-Provost's letter advised the student that he had been charged with three offences under the *Code* concerning the doctoral dissertation he had submitted to fill the research and writing requirements of the Doctor of Philosophy program in the Department of Political Science (designated as course RST 9999Y).
 - (i) Charge #1 alleged that Mr. G had knowingly represented as his own ideas, expressions of ideas and/or the work of another, contrary to section B.I.1(d) of the *Code*.
 - (ii) Charge #2 alleged that Mr. G had knowingly submitted a doctoral dissertation that contained concocted references to sources.
 - (iii) Charge #3 alleged that Mr. G had knowingly engaged in a form of cheating, academic dishonesty or misconduct, fraud or misrepresentation not otherwise described in the *Code* in order to obtain academic credit or other academic advantage of any kind, contrary to section B.I.3(d) of the *Code*.
3. The matter proceeded before the Tribunal on September 8, 2009. On consent, Mr. G did not attend. In a signed Consent form, he stated, inter alia:

I have signed an agreed statement of facts and a joint submission on penalty, and I do not wish to attend or participate further in these proceedings.

I understand that, in my absence, the University Tribunal may find that I have committed an act or acts of academic misconduct, and may impose sanctions against me as set out in the University of Toronto, *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters, 1995*, including that the Tribunal may recommend to the President that he recommend to Governing Council that I be expelled from the University.
4. 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 Mr. G was content that the hearing proceed in his absence based upon the agreed-upon document. The Agreed Statement of Facts was introduced as Exhibit 3, and is attached as **Schedule "A"**.

5. On the basis of this Agreed Statement of Facts, the Panel reached a finding that Mr. G was guilty of having knowingly represented as his own ideas, expressions of ideas and/or the work of another, contrary to section B.I.1(d) of the *Code* and knowingly submitting a doctoral dissertation that contained concocted references to sources, all as described in Charges #1 and #2 as listed in the Notice of Hearing. Charge #3 was withdrawn at the request of the University.
6. The Panel was advised further that the Student had also agreed to a Joint Submission on Penalty. That Joint Submission is attached as ***Schedule "B"***.
7. The Panel reviewed this agreement and concluded that it did, indeed, reflect an appropriate penalty under the circumstances. The academic misconduct admitted to in this case is as serious, comprehensive and pre-meditated as one might imagine. In our respectful opinion, there is no place for Mr. G in the University of Toronto academic community.
8. Accordingly, the Panel hereby imposes the following sanctions, namely that Mr. G :
 - (a) shall be assigned a final grade of zero in course RST 9999Y; and
 - (b) shall be suspended from attendance at the University of Toronto for a period of five years, with the suspension to run from September 8, 2009 to September 7, 2014.
9. The Panel further recommends to the President that he recommend to the Governing Council that Mr. G be expelled from the University.
10. 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 sanctions imposed with the Student's name withheld.
11. I certify that this is the decision of the Panel:

DATED at Toronto this 14th day of April, 2010.



Michael A. Hines, Chair

Schedule A

NO. 3¹

University of Toronto and Ö

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~~UNIVERSITY~~ UNIVERSITY TRIBUNAL
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
AND

Agreed Statement of Facts

1. For the purposes of this hearing under the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (Code), the University of Toronto (the University) and Ö G (Mr. G) have prepared this agreed statement of facts (ASF) and a joint book of documents (JBD). The University and Mr. G agree that:

- (a) they consent to the admission into evidence of each document contained in the JBD for all purposes, including for the truth of its contents, without further need to prove the document; and
- (b) if a document indicates that it was sent or received by someone, that is prima facie proof that the document was sent and received as indicated.

2. This hearing arises out of charges of academic misconduct filed by the Provost under the Code. A copy of the Charges, which were filed on July 8, 2009, is included in the JBD at Tab 1. Mr. G acknowledges that he received a copy of the Charges.

3. In Fall 2003, Mr. G registered in the Doctor of Philosophy program in the Department of Political Science in School of Graduate Studies at the University. He remained registered at the University at all material times. A copy of Mr. G's academic record dated May 29, 2009, is included in the JBD at Tab 2.

4. Mr. G admits that he received and reviewed a copy of the SGS Calendar, which states:

The Governing Council of the University of Toronto has approved a Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters applying to members of the University. The Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters addresses the responsibilities of all parties to the integrity of the teaching and learning experience. It concerns the accountability of faculty members and students as they cooperate in all phases of this relationship. Honesty and fairness must inform these activities, the foundation of which is mutual respect for the aims of education and for those ethical principles which characterize the pursuit and transmission of knowledge within the University.

The Code addresses offences, procedures, sanctions: more information appears in three appendices. The Code is enforced by Divisional Deans, the Provost, and the University Disciplinary Tribunal.

In cases involving graduate students, the divisional dean is the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies.

5. The doctoral degree in political science is an academic degree of the highest level. To obtain a doctoral degree in political science, students must complete course work and a thesis. Mr. G completed all requirements for the Ph. D. degree exclusive of thesis research and was thus designated as a doctoral candidate in the School of Graduate Studies.

6. The SGS Calendar describes a doctoral thesis as follows:

The candidate, through the graduate unit, shall present a thesis embodying the results of original investigation, conducted by the candidate, on the approved topic from the major field. The thesis shall constitute a significant contribution to the knowledge of the field and must be based on research conducted while registered for the PhD program.

A thesis should have a coherent topic with an introduction presenting the general theme of the research and a conclusion summarizing and integrating the major findings. Nonetheless, it may contain a collection of several papers. The collection of papers may be expanded or supplemented by unpublished material, scholarly notes, and necessary appendices. In all theses, pagination should be continuous; there should be a common table of contents and an integrated bibliography for the whole thesis. A thesis must be prepared in a standard format (see National Library guidelines and Guidelines for the Preparation of Theses referred to below).

7. Mr. G commenced work on his thesis shortly after registering at the University. Mr. G's thesis supervisor was Prof. Alan Brudner.

8. In May 2009, Mr. G submitted the final version of his doctoral thesis to Prof. Brudner and the other members of his examination committee. A copy of Mr. G's final version of thesis is found in the JBD at Tab 3.

9. Mr. G admits that the thesis he submitted consists almost entirely of lengthy passages of text taken directly from a variety of secondary texts. He admits that he copied lengthy paragraphs, and sometimes entire pages, from these texts into his thesis. He admits that he sometimes he altered a few words from the text he copied, but often he did not. He

admits that, but for a few concluding paragraphs, the thesis does not contain any of his own academic work.

10. With respect to the thesis, Mr. G admits that he knowingly:

- (a) included lengthy verbatim and nearly verbatim excerpts from secondary sources, including, but not limited to:
 - (i) Katerina Deligiorgi's book *Kant and the Culture of Enlightenment*, a copy of which is included in the JBD at Tab 4;
 - (ii) Steven B. Smith's book *Hegel's Critique of Liberalism – Rights in Context*, a copy of which is included in the JBD at Tab 5; and
 - (iii) Alice Ormiston's book *Love and Politics – Re-interpreting Hegel*, a copy of which is included in the JBD at Tab 6.
- (b) failed to attribute those excerpts appropriately using quotation marks;
- (c) failed to attribute the true source of those excerpts through accurate references or footnotes;
- (d) represented as his own an idea or expression of an idea or work of another;
- (e) did no meaningful academic work on the thesis; and
- (f) committed the academic offence of plagiarism with respect to the thesis as set out in charge #1 of the Charges, which are included in the JBD at Tab 2. ¹

11. Mr. G admits that he concocted the references that he included in the thesis. Mr. G admits that committed the academic offence as set out in charge #2 of the Charges, which are included in the JBD at Tab 2. ¹

12. Mr. G acknowledges that the Provost of the University of Toronto has:

- (a) made no representations or promises as to what sanction the Provost will seek in this case;

(b) advised him to obtain independent legal advice before signing this ASF and that he has either done so or deliberately waived his right to do so.

Signed in Toronto on August 21, 2009.

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G

Signed in Toronto on August 21, 2009.

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Robert A. Centa
Assistant Discipline Counsel
University of Toronto

Schedule B

University of Toronto and O. G

Joint Submission on Penalty

1. The Provost and O. G. submit to the University Tribunal that the appropriate penalty in all the circumstances of this case is that the Tribunal:

- a) impose a final grade of zero in course RST 9999Y
- b) immediately suspend Mr. G from the University for a period of up to 5 years;
- c) recommend to the President of the University that he recommend to the Governing Council that Mr. G be expelled from the University; and

2. The University of Toronto and Mr. G submit that the Tribunal should report this case to the Provost who may publish a notice of the decision of the Tribunal and the sanctions imposed, with Mr. G's name withheld.

3. Mr. G acknowledges that the University of Toronto has advised him to obtain independent legal advice before signing this Joint Submission on Penalty and that he has done so or has deliberately waived the right to do so.

Signed in Toronto on August 21, 2009.

NO. 5

[Signature]
G

THE UNIVERSITY TRIBUNAL
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
Signed in Toronto on August 21, 2009.

[Signature]
Robert A. Centa
Assistant Discipline Counsel
University of Toronto

AND
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This Exhibit is produced by
the *ASST. DISCIPLINE COUNSEL P. Centa*
this 8 day of SEPT, 2009.
[Signature]