



**TRIBUNAL DECISIONS UNDER THE**  
**CODE OF BEHAVIOUR ON ACADEMIC MATTERS**  
**(SPRING 2011)**

**FORGERY OF MULTIPLE DOCUMENTS**

**Five year suspension; six year notation on transcript; grade of 0 in the course; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld**

The Student pleaded guilty and agreed with the facts. The Panel found the Student guilty on 8 counts of submitting forged or falsified documents for academic advantage in one course. When considering the penalty, the Panel noted that:-

- Forgery is one of the most serious offences;
- Significant detriment to the University;
- Strong need to deter other students;
- The forgeries and falsifications related to a single exam in a single course; and
- The Student attended the Hearing, cooperated, pleaded guilty and showed remorse;

**FORGERY OF A DEGREE AND TRANSCRIPT**

**Expulsion; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld**

The Student attended and agreed with the facts put before the Panel. Specifically the Student agreed that there were 56 changes made to the transcript and that a letter was also submitted with false information regarding the transcript, as well as other forged documents in association with an application. The Panel found the Student guilty and in deciding the sanction noted the following:

- The seriousness of the offences;
- The number of offences;
- The deliberation and planning involved with the offences;
- That they occurred over an extended period of time and were therefore not a single “lapse in judgment;”
- The Student abused the trust of a Professor who supported the application;
- The detriment to the University as well as other students - should this Student have been accepted into the program the Student would have taken the place of someone else who deserved to be accepted;
- The need to deter others;
- That the Student cooperated and pleaded guilty but still did not accept the seriousness of what was done.

**FORGING TRANSCRIPT AND USING FALSE LETTER**

**Expulsion; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld**

The Student forged a transcript from the University of Regina and used it twice - when applying to UTM and then when applying to transfer from UTM to St. George. The Student was also allowed transfer credits from courses listed in the forged transcript. The Student agreed to the facts and sanction recommendation. The Panel found him/her guilty and noted that:

- Many cases that involve forged academic records such as degrees or transcripts result in expulsion;
- The Student gained admittance by falsifying a transcript thereby taking the spot of another potential student;
- Alteration of University records is one of the most serious offences a student can commit; and,
- General deterrence is important, especially since the act was planned, deliberate and done twice.

**BROUGHT NOTES INTO AN EXAM AND PLAGIARISED**

**Two year suspension; two year notation on transcript; grade of 0 in the course; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld**

The Student attended and the Panel found her/him guilty of both possessing an unauthorized aid as well as plagiarism. The Panel noted the following:

- First time offence for plagiarism at the Tribunal level involves minimum two year suspension;
- This case also involved using notes in an exam;
- The Student did not take responsibility for bringing the notes into the exam;
- There was a need for general deterrence;
- Need to send a message that exam procedures exist for a reason, and that there will be consequences if procedures are breached.

**MARRIED STUDENTS COMMITTED MULTIPLE OFFENCES: PLAGIARISM;  
IMPERSONATION IN EXAMS; USING UNAUTHORIZED AIDS;  
FORGING/FALSIFYING ACADEMIC RECORDS**

**Expulsion for both students; 0 in 3 courses for one Student and 0 in 7 courses for the other Student; publication of the decision with the names of the Students withheld**

The Students pleaded guilty and agreed with the facts and proposed sanctions put before the Panel. The Panel found each Student guilty of ten charges. The Panel agreed with the proposed sanction and noted the following:

- Egregious cases of academic dishonesty with extensive cheating;
- Involved multiple courses;
- High degree of planning;

- Involved forged identification;
- Students committed further academic offences after initially caught;
- High likelihood of repetition

### **PLAGIARISM & CONCOCTING REFERENCES**

**Two year suspension; two year notation on transcript; grade of 0 in the course; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld**

The Student did not attend the Hearing, but the Panel found that s/he had received notice and therefore decided to proceed in the Student's absence. The Panel found the Student guilty of plagiarism and concocting references in a paper. The Panel noted that:

- Two years is the norm for a first-time plagiarism offence that reaches the Tribunal;
- There was no evidence of character, mitigation or explanation from the Student;
- The Professor reviewed what plagiarism was and the consequences for committing plagiarism.

### **PLAGIARISM OF ANOTHER STUDENT'S ASSIGNMENT**

**Four year suspension; notation on transcript until the Student graduates; grade of 0 in the course; publication of decision with the name of the Student withheld; Student to pay costs of \$1200.15 before registering at the University**

The Student did not attend the Hearing, but the Panel found that s/he had received notice and therefore decided to proceed in the Student's absence. The Panel found the Student guilty and noted that:

- Student had committed two previous offences;
- Student did not cooperate with this process or previous processes;
- Student did not participate in either Hearing;
- University expended extensive resources in attempting to contact the Student for this and the previous process

### **PURCHASING AND SUBMITTING TWO ESSAYS**

**Five year suspension; notation on transcript for 6 years or until the Student graduates, whichever comes first; grade of 0 in both courses; publication of decision with the name of the Student withheld**

The Student pleaded guilty and agreed with the facts and proposed sanction put before the Panel. The Panel found the Student guilty of the charges. The Panel agreed with the proposed sanction and noted that expulsion might have been the appropriate penalty if not for the following:

- The Student admitted their guilt when confronted with the evidence;
- The Student cooperated with the University in their investigation;
- The Student was in first year and had no prior offences

**PURCHASING AN ESSAY**

**Five year suspension; grade of 0 in the course; notation on transcript for 7 years; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld**

The Student pleaded guilty and the Panel found the Student guilty. When imposing the sanctions the Panel noted the following:

- The Student had no prior offences;
- There was little evidence of the Student's character;
- The Student's concerted attempts to mislead the University;
- Purchasing an essay is one of the most serious offences that can be committed;

**STUDENT INVIGILATOR TOOK PHOTOS OF EXAMINATION SCRIPT AND EMAILED IT TO A STUDENT**

**Five year suspension; notation on the transcript for 5 years; publication of decision with the name of the Student withheld**

The Student pleaded guilty and agreed with the facts and proposed sanction put before the Panel. The Panel found the Student guilty of the charges. The Panel agreed with the proposed sanction and noted that:

- Egregious breach of trust;
- First offence;
- The Student was not motivated by personal gain;
- The Student expressed remorse;
- The offence was not premeditated

**STUDENT ATTEMPTED TO CONVINCE TWO EMPLOYEES ON TWO SEPARATE OCCASIONS THAT THEY HAD SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED 6 COURSES**  
**Expulsion; 0 in 6 courses; publication of decision with the name of the Student withheld**

The Student did not attend the Hearing, but the Panel found that s/he had received notice and therefore decided to proceed in the Student's absence. The Panel found the Student guilty and noted that:

- The Student's actions were repeated on more than one occasion;
- Misrepresentations were made to two different members of the University community;

**STUDENT HAD SOMEONE ELSE WRITE THEIR EXAM**

**Expulsion; grade of 0 in the course, publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld**

The Student did not attend the Hearing, so the Panel had to decide if the Student received notice of the Hearing. The Panel found the Student had received notice and chose to disregard the process because they had been in a position to respond to emails, had communicated with discipline counsel in the past, and recently communicated with another area of the University. The Panel found the Student guilty and when recommending expulsion noted the following:

- The Provost's Guidelines on Sanctions recommend expulsion for impersonation at an exam;
- This is a deliberate act that involves planning and does not include any original work by the Student;
- That general deterrence is important, and the likelihood of re-offence could not be discounted; and
- That the Student's non-attendance at the Hearing was viewed as an exacerbating factor