

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

**POSSESSION OF UNAUTHORIZED AID – CALCULATOR WITH NOTES IN AN EXAM**

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

The Student signed an Agreed Statement of Facts and a Joint Submission on Penalty. The Panel found the Student guilty and agreed with the proposed sanctions. The Panel noted the following:

- The Student cooperated;
- The Student accepted responsibility and showed remorse;
- There were prior offences; and
- The Student's medical and personal situation.

**PAID SOMEONE TO IMPERSONATE AT A TEST**

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

The Student signed an Agreed Statement of Facts. The Panel found the Student guilty and noted the following:

- Having someone impersonate you at a test was one of the most serious offences;
- The conduct was not impulsive but involved a great deal of planning;
- Although this was a first offence, the Student was given a second chance when the Department accepted his explanation in their initial meeting, yet he then proceeded to have someone impersonate him – this brings this case into the most serious category of academic offence;
- The Student exhibited a total disregard for the academic process and honesty;
- There was no indication he would not re-offend, especially since he was given a second-chance;
- The offence involved a commercial element that required general deterrence; and
- The Student did eventually co-operate, it was a first offence, and he pleaded guilty.

**FORGERY OF A DEGREE AND TRANSCRIPT**

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

The Student signed an Agreed Statement of Facts. The Panel found the Student guilty and in deciding the sanction noted the following:

- That similar offences resulted in expulsion, even if there was an Agreed Statement of Facts and the Student attended the hearing; and
- The need to maintain the integrity of University.

## **MULTIPLE FORGED ACADEMIC DOCUMENTS AND MULTIPLE FORGED MEDICAL DOCUMENTS**

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

The Student had forged the following documents: academic record; course syllabi; document claiming she had attended and succeeded at another University; multiple false email contacts for individuals at the other University; two false emails from individuals who were supposed to be from another University; a ROSI transcript; a false medical certificate and five false medical notes. The Panel found the Student guilty and noted the following:

- The Student's actions were about as egregious as one could imagine;
- The Student "engaged in a web of deception that was carefully thought out, deliberate and prolonged, all of which was calculated to deceive everyone at the University with whom she dealt;"
- The University was put towards great expense;
- There were no mitigating factors;
- The detriment to the University; and
- The potential to damage the international reputation of the University.

## **FALSIFIED M.A.SC THESEIS – INCLUDING RESULTS AND CONCOCTING STATEMENTS OF FACT AND DATA**

**Degree recall; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld**

The Panel found the Student guilty and noted the following:

- The Student was a graduate student and should have known that his references were concocted (although under the Code he still would have been found guilty because he "ought reasonably to have known");
- There was no evidence of extenuating circumstances;
- The concoction was deliberate;
- The Student's lack of appreciation regarding the seriousness of the offences;
- The Student first denied the accusations and when confronted with evidence changed his explanation; and
- There was no evidence of the Student's rehabilitation.

## **FORGED MULTIPLE DOCUMENTS**

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

The Student sent multiple emails to multiple University officials stating that she was a registered student and had taken a course, so she could obtain transfer credits for advanced standing at a post-secondary institution, and she forged a ROSI transcript to two different individuals to support the above request. The Student signed an Agreed Statement of Facts and a Joint Submission on Penalty, and the Panel found the Student guilty. The Panel noted the following:

- The high threshold to reject a Joint Submission on Penalty;
- That forging or falsifying an academic record is very serious;
- The University relies on its official records, and these records are essential to its credibility and reputation;

- The detriment both to the University and other students; and
- The case law of the Tribunal indicates that these offences often lead to expulsion.

### **PLAGIARISM**

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

The Student plagiarized a project for a course. The Panel found the Student guilty and noted the following:

- There were three previous incidents of plagiarism, and the Student was currently serving a three year suspension from the Tribunal;
- The Student engaged in a web of deception;
- The Student committed the offence during a period for which the Tribunal had “given him a break;”
- There was no evidence of remorse;
- There were no extenuating circumstances;
- There was a high likelihood of repetition; and
- The reputation of the University was at stake and therefore there was a need for general deterrence.

### **PLAGIARISM**

**Four year suspension; nine year and four month notation on transcript or until graduation, whichever is earlier; grade of 0 in the course; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld**

The Student plagiarized two essays, concocted sources, and altered an electronic submission of the two essays to disguise the fact she committed plagiarism. The Student pled guilty to five charges, signed an Agreed Statement of Facts and a Joint Submission on Penalty. The Panel found the Student guilty and accepted the Joint Submission on Penalty

### **FALSIFICATION OF MULTIPLE DOCUMENTS**

**Five year suspension; five year notation on transcript; grade of 0 in four courses; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld**

The Student submitted a falsified deferral petition form, death notice, and a letter in order to obtain academic advantage in four courses. The Student signed an Agreed Statement of Facts and a Joint Submission on Penalty. In finding the Student guilty the Panel noted the following:

- The charges were very serious;
- The facts involved four different courses over a period of two years;
- The Student cooperated and signed an Agreed Statement of Facts and Joint Submission on Penalty; and
- These types of cases often result in a five-year suspension.

### **PLAGIARISM**

**Eighteen month suspension; three year notation on transcript or until graduation, whichever is sooner; grade of 0 in the course; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld**

The Student submitted two versions of the same paper, both of which were plagiarised. In finding the Student guilty the Panel noted the following:

- That there was not a deliberate disregard of the rules;
- The Student, however, chose not to avail himself of the rules of the University;
- The personal circumstances of the Student were off-set by the evidence of the Student's attitude regarding the events; and
- The need for individual deterrence.

#### **PLAGIARISM (Trial Division)**

**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 submitted a plagiarised essay. In finding the Student guilty the Panel noted the following:

- A two year suspension is generally the precedent for a first time plagiarism case that reaches the Tribunal;
- The absence of the Student did not allow for the introduction of mitigating factors;
- The detriment to the University;
- The need for general deterrence; and
- The need to provide the Student with an opportunity for rehabilitation.

#### **APPEAL DECISION OF ABOVE CASE**

**Original decision upheld regarding both conviction and sanction**

The Student argued that he did not receive adequate notice of the hearing, the Panel should not have proceeded in his absence, he was therefore not provided the opportunity to submit evidence to the original Panel, and that there was a delay in being advised of the decision which prejudiced him. The Appeal Panel in dismissing the appeal noted the following:

- There was ample evidence of the following: the Student received multiple communications regarding the hearing and its consequences; he was consulted regarding dates; he was accommodated with an adjournment; and he was provided with further notice and updated communications of the rescheduled hearing;
- It was not appropriate to adjourn the hearing given the great lengths and efforts that multiple people went to in rescheduling it, especially since he had notice of the hearing;
- The Student was not able to show that the evidence he wanted to introduce was unavailable at the time of the hearing, but rather, it was unavailable to introduce at the Trial Division because he did not attend the hearing;
- Even if the new evidence was to be considered, it would not have changed the result of the Tribunal decision as he did not demonstrate remorse, he did not provide an explanation for his behaviour, nor did he express an intent not to engage in such behaviour in the future; and
- The Student was already on a suspension for academic reasons and not because of the Trial decision, and therefore any delay did not prejudice him.