



FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: Academic Board

SPONSOR: Mr. Christopher Lang, Director, Appeals, Discipline and Faculty Grievances

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PRESENTER: See Sponsor

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DATE: November 14, 2013 for November 21, 2013

AGENDA ITEM: 7b

ITEM IDENTIFICATION: University Tribunal, Individual Reports Fall, 2013

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The University Tribunal hears cases of academic discipline under the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters, 1995* (the “Code”)¹ which are not disposed of under the terms of the *Code* by the Division.

Section 5.2.6 (b) of the Terms of Reference of the Academic Board provides for the Board to receive for information reports, without names, on the disposition of cases in accordance with the *Code*.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. Academic Board [for information] (November 23, 2013)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The previous semi-annual report was submitted to the Academic Board on June 3, 2013.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The purpose of the information package is to fulfill the requirements of the University Tribunal and, in so doing, inform the Board of the Tribunal’s work and the matters it considers, and the process it follows. It is not intended to create a discussion regarding individual cases, their

¹ <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>

specifics or the sanctions imposed, as these were dealt with by an adjudicative body with a legally qualified chair, bound by due process and fairness, and based on the record of evidence and submissions put before it by the parties.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

- Tribunal Decisions Under the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (Fall 2013)

**TRIBUNAL DECISIONS UNDER THE
CODE OF BEHAVIOUR ON ACADEMIC MATTERS
(FALL 2013)**

IMPERSONATION DURING A TEST AND AN EXAMINATION

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. The Panel found that the Student had been given reasonable notice of the hearing and that the hearing should proceed in the Student's absence. The Tribunal found the Student guilty of two counts of personation, and noted the following: although not bound by the Provost's Guidelines, the recommended sanction for cases involving personation is expulsion; there were two incidents of personation; the Student had a poor academic record; there were no mitigating circumstances; the integrity of the academic evaluation process was important; engaging someone to impersonate was a serious breach of academic integrity; and, there was premeditation.

SUBMISSION OF ACADEMIC WORK THAT HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED

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

The Student agreed with the facts before the Panel, the sanction proposed and pleaded guilty. The Panel found the Student guilty and in agreeing with the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student admitted the offences and cooperated early on; the Student engaged in the same offence that had been committed on a prior occasion; the offences are serious; the sanctions fall within the appropriate range when examining prior decisions; and, there is a high threshold to reject a Joint Submission on Penalty.

FORGED AND FALSIFIED MULTIPLE DOCUMENTS

Expulsion; grade of 0 in five courses; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student forged and falsified multiple documents as well as evidence required by the University, for the purposes of seeking academic accommodations in five courses. The falsified documents included death certificates, petitions, and personal statements, while the academic accommodations the Student sought included permission to withdraw late without academic penalty and to defer examinations. The Student agreed with the facts put before the Panel, the sanctions proposed and pleaded guilty. The Panel found the Student guilty and

in agreeing with the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the offences were serious especially given the Student knowingly falsified petitions; the forgeries and falsifications were elaborate; and, it was all for the purpose of obtaining an academic advantage.

FORGED AND FALSIFIED MULTIPLE DOCUMENTS

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

The Student agreed with the facts put before the Panel, the sanctions proposed and pleaded guilty. The Panel found the Student guilty and in agreeing with the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: there is a high threshold to reject a jointly proposed sanction and without it the result might have been expulsion; the Student had only one credit left to graduate; the Student admitted guilt, cooperated throughout the process, and expressed remorse; this is the Student's first offence; the forging of an academic transcript is a serious offence that requires deliberation and strikes at the heart of academic integrity; and there is a need for general deterrence.

FORGED AND FALSIFIED A UNIVERSITY TRANSCRIPT TO AN EMPLOYER

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

The Student agreed with the facts put before the Panel, the sanctions proposed and pleaded guilty. The Panel found the Student guilty and in agreeing with the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the misconduct involved providing a falsified academic transcript to an employer; employers and other third parties must be able to rely on University transcripts as accurate in order to make objective hiring decisions; the misconduct strikes at the very integrity of the recruitment process; the misconduct had the potential of not only having an undeserving candidate receive a job offer, but, taking that job offer away from more deserving candidates; the Student cooperated in the discipline process throughout, thereby providing an optimistic indicator that the Student's relationship with the University could still be restored; and, the penalty proposed was consistent with the serious nature of the misconduct and there was no principled reason to reject it.

FORGED AND FALSIFIED MULTIPLE MEDICAL CERTIFICATES

Slightly less than a five year suspension; notation on the transcript for five years; grade of 0 in three courses; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student pleaded guilty, and agreed with the facts and the proposed sanctions. The Panel found the Student guilty and noted the following: the Student cooperated, accepted responsibility and participated in the process; the offences were serious and there were three of them; and the proposed sanction was within a reasonable range based on past decisions.

PLAGIARISM IN TWO COURSES

Four year suspension; notation on transcript until graduation; grade of 0 in two courses; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student agreed with the facts put before the Panel, the sanctions proposed and pleaded guilty. The Panel found the Student guilty and in agreeing with the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student had a prior offence; the Student admitted the charges at an early stage in the process and cooperated with the University; and that there is a high threshold to reject a Joint Submission on Penalty.

PLAGIARISM AND USE OF UNAUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE

Three year suspension; notation on transcript for three years; grade of 0 in two courses; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student agreed with the facts put before the Panel, the proposed sanctions and pleaded guilty. The Panel found the Student guilty and in agreeing with the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student had been sanctioned for academic misconduct on a previous occasion; the Student admitted guilt early in the process and cooperated; and the proposed sanctions were consistent with past decisions.

PLAGIARISM

Four year suspension; notation on transcript for five years; 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 and proposed sanctions. The Panel found the Student guilty and noted the following: the Student attended the hearing, and acknowledged guilt and the seriousness of the conduct; the principles of honesty and integrity are fundamental; the Student had prior incidents of academic misconduct; the offence is serious; there was a hope that the Student had learned from the conduct; and the sanctions fell within a reasonable range.

PLAGIARISM AND CONCOCTING REFERENCES MULTIPLE TIMES

Four year suspension; notation on transcript for five years; grade of 0 in two courses; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student pleaded guilty, and agreed with the facts and proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty, the Panel noted the following: the offences occurred over two time periods; the offences were serious; the Student eventually cooperated but not at the very beginning; the Student pleaded guilty, and the sanctions were consistent with past cases.