



FOR INFORMATION

OPEN SESSION

TO: Academic Board

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

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PRESENTER: See Sponsor

CONTACT INFO:

DATE: November 12, 2015 for November 19, 2015

AGENDA ITEM: 6(a.)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION: University Tribunal, Individual Reports Fall, 2015

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 19, 2015)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The last semi-annual report came to the Academic Board on June 1, 2015.

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 specifics or the sanctions imposed, as these were dealt with by an adjudicative body with a

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

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.

**TRIBUNAL DECISIONS UNDER THE
CODE OF BEHAVIOUR ON ACADEMIC MATTERS
(FALL 2015)**

PLAGIARISM AND IMPROPER COLLABORATION

Three-year suspension; notation on transcript for four years or graduation, whichever is earlier; grade of 0 in two courses; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student knowingly represented as her own work the work of another, improperly collaborated with another student, and represented as her own work, that which was prepared by both her and another student. The Student did not attend the hearing after being granted an adjournment from an earlier hearing date, but the Panel was satisfied that reasonable notice was given, and decided to proceed in the Student's absence. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the sanctions, the Tribunal noted the following: cases like this at the Tribunal usually start with a two-year suspension and are then modified based on the circumstances; cases that involved four-year suspensions were ones where there was a prior offence; and this case involved multiple offences.

PROVIDING UNAUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE AND IMPROPER COLLABORATION

Three-year suspension; notation on transcript for four years or graduation, whichever is earlier; grade of 0 in the course; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student aided another student in the commission of an offence as well as improperly collaborated with another student. The Student did not attend the hearing, but the Panel was satisfied that reasonable notice was given, and decided to proceed in the Student's absence. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the sanctions, the Tribunal noted the following: cases like this at the Tribunal usually start with a two-year suspension and are then modified based on the circumstances; cases that involved four-year suspensions were ones where there was a prior offence; and this case involved multiple offences.

PLAGIARISED LARGE PARTS OF A PHD DISSERTATION, FORGED A LETTER AND MISLEAD OFFICIALS AT TWO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

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

The Student knowingly forged a letter on SGS letterhead, plagiarised large parts of his dissertation, and misled individuals who were attempting to clarify issues related to the progression of his dissertation. The Student did not attend the hearing, but the Tribunal was satisfied that there had been reasonable notice. The Tribunal found the Student guilty, and in recommending expulsion, noted the following: the Student did not engage in the process and was unresponsive after March 2014; the Student could no longer be reinstated and was therefore ineligible to complete his degree; he deliberately misled faculty and staff at another university; the extent and scope of plagiarism could have called into question the reputation of the university; the plagiarism of the dissertation itself would have warranted a recommendation for expulsion, but when coupled with the forgery, it was "shocking;" the Student's behaviour irreparably broke the relationship with the university; there was a need for both specific and general deterrence; and, the Student involving another academic institution could have led to the belief that the University of Toronto was lax in its standards.

ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALTERING AN EXAM

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

The Student attempted to break into a University of Toronto office where exams were stored, so that he could alter his exam. The Student agreed with the facts put forward and pleaded guilty. In accepting the plea and in finding the Student guilty, the Tribunal noted the following when recommending expulsion: just weeks before the attempted break-in, the Student had another Tribunal hearing where he was found guilty and received a four-year suspension; that Panel delayed the start of the suspension at the Student's request, to allow him to complete his current courses, and it was during this grace period that he re-offended; the attempted break-in was organized and pre-meditated, and included bringing notes to change his answers, as well as a home-made break-in tool; the offence was serious and struck at the heart of integrity; there was a likelihood of repetition because of the prior offence and timing therein; there was a strong need for general deterrence; expulsion was consistent with prior decisions; and, there was a lack of mitigating factors.

STUDENT SUBMITTED INCOMPLETE TRANSCRIPT FOR A SUMMER INTERNSHIP AND MISLEAD THE FACULTY

Three-year suspension; four-year notation on transcript; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student intentionally omitted part of an academic record when applying for an internship program, in order to conceal a grade and an annotation on his transcript. The Student attended the hearing, agreed with the proposed facts and pleaded guilty. In imposing the sanctions the Tribunal noted the following: the need for general deterrence; this was not a first offence; the conduct was serious; there was no link between the medical evidence produced by the Student and the offence; the Student eventually cooperated but not initially; the suspension was on the light end for similar cases; and the Student participated in the process.

PLAGIARISED AN ASSIGNMENT AND AIDED AND PROVIDED UNAUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE TO ANOTHER STUDENT

Three-year suspension; four-year notation on transcript or until graduation, whichever is earlier; grade of 0 in two courses; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student attended the hearing, agreed with the facts and pleaded guilty. The Student also agreed with the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the proposed sanctions, the Tribunal noted the following: the Student had been disciplined on a prior occasion for a similar offence; there were important personal mitigating circumstances; and the Student attended the hearing and acknowledged guilt at an early stage.

PLAGIARISED THREE ASSIGNMENTS

Three-year suspension; four-year 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 did not attend the hearing, but the Panel was satisfied that reasonable notice was given, and agreed to proceed in the Student's absence. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the sanctions, the Tribunal noted the following: the Student had no prior offences; there was no evidence of any mitigating circumstances; the Student did not participate in the process; there were three incidents of plagiarism; the Student attempted to hide the plagiarism; there was no remorse; there was a need for general deterrence; and the sanctions were consistent with previous decisions.

PLAGIARISED AND RECEIVED UNAUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE ON AN ESSAY

Five-year suspension; notation on transcript until graduation; grade of 0 in the course; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student purchased an essay and then plagiarised from it for an assignment. The Student pleaded guilty, and agreed with the facts and the proposed sanction. The Panel found the Student guilty, and in imposing the jointly proposed sanctions noted the following: the Student had a prior offence; the Student did most of the work on her essay and only copied small parts from the purchased paper; this type of offence was hard to detect; the normal presumption for a purchased essay case is, as per a Discipline Appeals Board decision, expulsion; the Student admitted guilt, cooperated and participated in the process; there were personal mitigating circumstances; and there was a need for general deterrence.

POSSESSED THREE UNAUTHORIZED AIDS AT AN EXAMINATION

Two-year suspension; notation on transcript for three years 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 was found in possession of lecture notes, a prior final exam and solutions to a homework assignment while writing an exam. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: there was a prior offence; the Student took some responsibility; the conduct was serious; the Student did not use the unauthorized aids; and the sanctions were consistent with prior decisions.

PLAGIARISED AN ESSAY

Two-year suspension; notation on transcript until graduation; 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 determined reasonable notice was provided, and decided to proceed in the Student's absence. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: it was a deliberate act of plagiarism; the importance of academic integrity had been brought to the Student's attention; the Student failed to cooperate; the Student took an aggressive tone in email communications with the University; and there was no evidence of remorse or mitigating circumstances.

PLAGIARISED AND CONCOCTED REFERENCES IN A PAPER

Three-year suspension; notation on transcript for four years or graduation, whichever is earlier; grade of 0 in the course; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student did not attend, but the Panel determined there was reasonable notice, and proceeded in the Student's absence. The Panel found the Student guilty, and in imposing the sanctions noted the following: the Student had a prior offence for plagiarism and concoction; the Student did not participate in the process after the Dean's meeting; there was no evidence of mitigating circumstances; the offences were serious; and the sanctions were consistent with other Tribunal decisions.

PLAGIARISED AN ESSAY AND FORGED A MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

Three-and-a-half year suspension; notation on transcript until graduation; grade of 0 in the course; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student attended the hearing via SKYPE, admitted to the facts and proposed sanctions, and pleaded guilty. The Panel found the Student guilty, and in imposing the sanctions noted the following: the Student had a prior plagiarism offence; the Student cooperated and admitted guilt; and there were personal mitigating circumstances.

PLAGIARISED AND CONCOCTED REFERENCES IN AN ESSAY

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

The Student did not attend, but the Tribunal was satisfied that reasonable notice had been given. The Tribunal found the Student guilty, and in imposing the sanctions noted the following: a two-year suspension was consistent with other cases; the Student did not participate in the process or respond to communications from the University; there was no evidence of mitigating circumstances; the offence was serious and the plagiarism extensive; there was a need for general deterrence; and it was a first offence.

PLAGIARISED AN ASSIGNMENT, FORGED THE SIGNATURE OF A TEACHING ASSISTANT ON A DOCUMENT AND CONCOCTED DATA IN AN ASSIGNMENT

Four-year suspension; notation on transcript for five years or graduation, whichever is first; grade of 0 in two courses; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student agreed with the facts and proposed sanctions, and pleaded guilty. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the sanctions, the Tribunal noted the following: the Student had a prior offence; this case involved three offences

committed within a short period of time; the offences were serious; the Student's conduct was unfair to other students; there was a need for both specific and general deterrence; and there were personal mitigating circumstances.