



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 7 for November 24, 2016

AGENDA ITEM: 10a

ITEM IDENTIFICATION: University Tribunal, Information Reports Fall, 2016

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. **Agenda Committee [for information] (November 14, 2016)**
2. Academic Board [for information] (November 24, 2016)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The last semi-annual report came to the Academic Board on May 30, 2016.

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

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 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:

- Information Reports of Tribunal Decisions under the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters, 1995* (Fall 2016)

University of Toronto

**TRIBUNAL DECISIONS UNDER THE
CODE OF BEHAVIOUR ON ACADEMIC MATTERS
(FALL 2016)**

POSTED CONTENTS OF AN EXAM TO FACEBOOK

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 in possession of a cell phone during an exam, took a photo of it and posted it for other students. Although the Student did not attend the hearing, the Panel determined appropriate notice had been given and that the hearing could proceed in the Student's absence. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student did not participate in the process; there was no evidence of mitigating circumstances; and the sanction was consistent with other cases.

PLAGIARIZED AND USED AN UNAUTHORIZED AID

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

The Student copied and used verbatim excerpt from another student's computer program. The Student agreed with the facts, submission on sanction and pleaded guilty. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student had prior charges of academic misconduct; the misconduct was serious; and there was a need for deterrence.

FORGED AN ACADEMIC RECORD

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

The Student submitted a falsified letter of enrolment to an employer. Although the Student did not attend the hearing, 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: during the time of the offence, the Student had been suspended because of other academic dishonesty allegations, and therefore the likelihood of repetition was high; the falsification was deliberate, careful and showed calculated

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dishonesty; there was detriment to the University as the Student misrepresented her academic status to an outside party, thereby undermining the public's perception of the integrity of the University's academic records; and there was a need to deter others given these types of documents are difficult for the University to police.

FORGED A TEST PAPER

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 altered a test paper before returning it to the instructor for re-grading. The Student did not attend the hearing, but the Tribunal determined the Provost was entitled to proceed. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the alterations were significant; and this was a first offence.

PLAGIARIZED AND PROVIDED/RECEIVED UNAUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE

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 submitted an assignment that was identical to that of another Student. The Student did not attend, 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: this was a first offence; the Student did not participate; there was no evidence of mitigating circumstances; and the sanctions were similar to other cases.

FORGED DOCUMENTS TO RECEIVE ACCOMMODATIONS

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

The Student forged multiple documents including Personal Statements, Verification of Student Illness Forms, and receipts for medical services, all of which were submitted to receive academic accommodations. The Student agreed with the facts, submission on sanction and pleaded guilty. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the offences

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were serious; there was planning and deliberation; the forgeries undermined the integrity of the University process; the Student cooperated and admitted to the misconduct; the Student was a first-time offender; the sanctions were consistent with other cases; and there were personal mitigating circumstances.

FORGED MULTIPLE FORMS

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

The Student forged Verification of Student Illness Forms, as well as a receipt and a submission page from Turnitin. The Student agreed with the facts, submission on sanction and pleaded guilty. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student engaged in significant dishonesty over a long period of time; there were extraordinary mitigating personal circumstances; supports had been put in place for the Student, making it unlikely the Student would reoffend; and the sanctions were consistent with other cases.

PLAGIARIZED A RESEARCH PAPER

Four-year suspension; notation on transcript for one year following graduation, withdrawal or termination from the program; grade of 0 in the course; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student extensively copied from the internet and textbooks without citations or attribution for a research paper. The Student agreed with the facts, submission on sanction and pleaded guilty. The Panel found the Student guilty and in imposing the agreed-upon sanctions noted the following: the Student faced stressful personal circumstances; the Student expressed remorse; it was the Student's second offence; and the Student submitted this plagiarized paper within a month of receiving a warning for an earlier offence.

FALSIFIED MULTIPLE PETITIONS

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

The Student falsified petitions and supporting documents in order to write deferred exams in two courses. The Student agreed with the facts, proposed sanctions and pleaded guilty. The Panel found the Student guilty and in

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imposing the agreed-upon sanctions noted the following: the Student accepted responsibility by attending the hearing and pleading guilty; there was a concern regarding repetition of misconduct given there were two offences; the offences were serious; there was deliberation and careful planning; and these were first offences.

PLAGIARIZED PAPER

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

The Student plagiarized on an essay. The Student attended the hearing, pleaded guilty, and agreed with the facts and proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty, and in imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student had two prior offences; the Student cooperated; and the Student pleaded guilty.

PROVIDED UNAUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE

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

The Student provided other students with the answers to a quiz in a course already taken. The Student agreed with the facts, submission on sanction and pleaded guilty. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: this was the Student's first offence; there was no evidence of mitigating or aggravating circumstances; and the sanctions were similar to those imposed in other cases.

FORGED A TEST PAPER

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

The Student altered a test paper before resubmitting it to obtain additional marks. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: there were difficult personal issues faced by the Student; the Student took the proceedings seriously and showed a degree of remorse; it was unlikely there would be a repetition; and the misconduct was serious.

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PLAGIARIZED TWO PAPERS

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

The Student plagiarized two papers, and for one paper there was evidence that it was purchased. The Student did not attend the hearing, but the Panel found that appropriate notice was given, and proceeded in the Student's absence. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the presumed sanction for a purchased paper, based on an appeal decision, was expulsion; the Student was aware of concerns regarding the first paper when the second offence was committed; the Student did not engage in the process; purchased papers are hard to detect; and there was a strong need for deterrence.

PLAGIARIZED TWO PIECES OF WORK

Two-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 plagiarized in a lab report and on an assignment. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the two offences were committed in quick succession; there were no prior offences; and the Student attended both the meeting with the Dean's Designate and the Tribunal hearing.

PLAGIARIZED EXAMS

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

The Student plagiarized in three different examinations. The Student agreed with the facts, submission on sanction and pleaded guilty. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student had two prior offences; the Student cooperated; and the Student pleaded guilty.