

The Academic Appeals Committee & Tribunal - Academic Board Orientation November 2012

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(ADFG)

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Introduction & Agenda

- Introduction
- Academic Appeals – Structure;
Definition; Role of ADFG, AAC and AB
- Tribunal – Structure; Code of Behaviour;
Role of ADFG and AB

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Structure of Academic Appeals at the U of T

- First stop: the division
- Decision-making is local, decentralized
- Divisional resolution is preferred
- Committee is an overseer of local decision-making
- Students are to be treated **UNIFORMLY** across divisions and with a measure of **FAIRNESS**

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The Academic Appeals Committee

- Standing Committee of the Academic Board, which is a Board of Governing Council
 - Therefore even though cases go to AB for information only, AB has stronger oversight role with respect to academic appeals
- AAC hears appeals by students against decisions regarding the application of academic regulations and requirements
- Composition of Members

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What is an academic appeal

According to the *Policy on Academic Appeals within Divisions*, an appeal is an appeal by a student:

- (a) against a University decision as to his or her success or failure in meeting an academic standard or other academic requirement of the University; or,
- (b) as to the applicability to his or her case of any academic regulation of the University; however,
- (c) no appeal lies from any admissions decision.

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The Appeal Committee continued

- 2 key documents
 - *Statutory Powers and Procedures Act*
 - *Terms of Reference*
- Role of Chairs
- Principles of Natural Justice

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Principles of Natural Justice

- ***A person in certain circumstances is entitled to a hearing of this nature; that the person is able to speak to this case; that the opposing side is able to respond; and that the person seeking justice can hear the other side.***

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Common Remedies

- **The Remedy – Recent Examples**
 - Allow late withdrawal without academic penalty
 - Allow late work to be submitted and graded without penalty
 - Allow student to write a deferred exam
 - Grant aegrotat

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An Introduction to Academic Integrity and the Code

- The Importance of Academic Integrity
- Structure of Academic Discipline Cases
 - Divisional Process
 - Referral to Provost
 - Tribunal Panel Composition
 - Role of President & GC Regarding Expulsions

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Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters

- Important Sections of the Code
- Rules of Practice and Procedure
- Discipline Appeals Board – Appeals Process

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The Hearing Process

- Procedural Fairness
- Burden of Proof
- Evidentiary Issues and Credibility

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Role of ADFG – Academic Appeals and Academic Discipline

- Neutrality
- Information Resource
- Process Management
 - receive the appeal or charges
 - schedule the hearing
 - establish the panel – check for conflicts
 - review policies/practices
- Statistics – Yearly Report to AB
- Semi-Annual Report to AB of Cases

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The Office of Appeals, Discipline and Faculty Grievances (“ADFG”)

- The ADFG Office is responsible for managing the administration of the Governing Council’s quasi-judicial functions: academic and non-academic discipline, academic appeals, grievances, tenure appeals and clinical academic complaints
- Approximate number of appeals filed per year with ADFG: 5-10; number of students facing academic discipline charges at Tribunal: 35-40
- Divisions from which most appeals originate: Arts and Science, Engineering, SGS, UTM, and UTSC; most academic discipline cases: Arts & Science, UTM and UTSC
- Timeline - Internal Long-term Goals: AAC - 6 months from the date of ADFG receiving all materials; Tribunal – 9 months from charges to decision
- Types of Issues Managed by the ADFG

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