

**TO:** UTSC Academic Affairs Committee

**SPONSOR:** William Gough, Vice-Principal, Academic & Dean  
**CONTACT INFO:** 416-208-7027, vpdean.utsc@utoronto.ca

**PRESENTER:** Curtis Cole, Registrar & Assistant Dean Enrolment Management  
**CONTACT INFO:** 416- 287-7527, curtis.cole@utoronto.ca

**DATE:** September 3, 2021 for September 13, 2021

**AGENDA ITEM:** 3

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

Annual Report: 2020-21 Subcommittee on Academic Appeals

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

Section 5.7 of the Terms of Reference of the University of Toronto Scarborough Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) provides that the Committee receives reports from the Subcommittee on Academic Appeals.

**GOVERNANCE PATH:**

**1. UTSC Academic Affairs Committee [For Information] (September 13, 2021)**

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

The Annual Report: 2019-20 Subcommittee on Academic appeals was presented for information to the UTSC Academic Affairs Committee on September 14, 2020.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

The Subcommittee on Academic Appeals is a subcommittee of the UTSC Academic Affairs Committee and was established on September 10, 2013. The Subcommittee on Academic Appeals considers appeals against the decisions of the Dean's Advisory Committee (DAC) on petitions from undergraduate students relating to exemption from an academic regulation. The Dean's Advisory Committee must hear all petitions before a student can appeal to the Subcommittee on Academic Appeals. The Dean's Advisory Committee plays an integral role in the early resolution process, helping to reduce the number of appeals that are heard by the Subcommittee on Academic Appeals.

The year over year data below provides a view of the number of petitions filed by undergraduates at UTSC, the number of petition decisions heard by the Dean’s Advisory Committee, and finally, the number of appeals heard by the Subcommittee on Academic Appeals.

**Number of petitions filed annually:**

<b>Year (Jan-Dec)</b>	<b># of Petitions Filed</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>2435</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>2466</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>2727</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>2908</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>3474</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>1895*</b>
<b>2021 (up to August 26)</b>	<b>Pending: 520 Completed: 942 TOTAL: 1462</b>

**Number of undergraduate petition decisions reviewed by the Dean’s Advisory Committee:**

<b>Year (Jan-Dec)</b>	<b># of petition decisions reviewed by DAC</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>2021 (up to August 2021)</b>	<b>4</b>

**Appeals heard by the Subcommittee on Academic Appeals:**

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\* Note: the decline in the number of petitions submitted in 2020 can be attributed to the large number of students who took advantage of the emergency provisions introduced towards the end of the Winter 2020 term to permit the option of choosing CR/NCR or WDR without petitioning. At the same time the complexity of petition cases during the pandemic has greatly increased the time and total staffing resources necessary for adjudication.

<b>Year (Jan-Dec)</b>	<b># of appeals heard by the Subcommittee on Academic Appeals</b>
<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2016-17</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2017-18</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2018-19</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2019-20</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>2020-21 (up to Sept. 13 2021)</b>	<b>1</b>

The data provided indicates that overall, the number of cases is very low and decreasing. The data also indicates a trend that the cases heard earlier in the process (by the DAC) are also reducing since 2015. Early resolution at the DAC results in the low number of appeals reviewed by the Subcommittee. Students are referred to various services on campus to seek guidance on the appeals process.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Not applicable.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Presented for Information.

**DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:**

None.