

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
GOVERNING COUNCIL**

Report # 417 of the Academic Appeals Committee
December 13, 2021

To the Academic Board
University of Toronto

Your Committee reports that it held a hybrid hearing (mix of both in-person and electronic via Zoom) on Monday, December 13, 2021, at which the following members were present:

Academic Appeals Committee Members:

Professor Stephen Waddams, Chair
Professor Ron Levi, Faculty Governor
Ms. Mozynah Nofal, Student Governor

Hearing Secretary:

Mr. Christopher Lang, Director, Office of Appeals, Discipline and Faculty Grievances

For the Student Appellant:

Mr. O.R. (the “Student”)

For the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering:

Professor Thomas Coyle, Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering

Background

The Appellant was prevented by illness from completing work in three courses in the Faculty of Applied Sciences and Engineering in 2020: HMB 200, MIE 304 and FOR 424. The Appellant had obtained a mark of 48 per cent in FOR 424. He petitioned the Examination Committee of the Faculty for permission to complete the work for the three courses at later dates. The medical evidence was undisputed, and the Examination Committee agreed that accommodation was appropriate. The accommodation allowed was retroactive withdrawal, explanations being given in identical words in respect of each course, without reference to the mark in FOR 424.

The result was that the Appellant did not incur any academic penalty, but neither did he receive any academic credit, nor was he given the opportunity of completing the remaining requirements of FOR 424. The Appellant appealed to the Faculty's Academic Appeals Board, which dismissed the appeal on the ground that 'there is no evidence that the student completed sufficient course work for the courses in question'; no reference was made in the Board's reasons to the mark of 48 per cent in FOR 424. The Appellant now appeals to your committee, stressing the distinction between FOR 424 and the other two courses.

An expedited hearing was scheduled in view of the need for a decision before the Winter term of 2022.

Decision

Your committee's decision is that the appeal should be allowed in respect of FOR 424, and the Appellant afforded an opportunity to complete the remaining requirements of that course during the Winter term of 2022. The accuracy of the mark of 48 per cent was not disputed by the Faculty, and consequently the reason given by the Academic Appeals Board (that 'there is no

evidence that the student completed sufficient course work') does not apply to this course: the 48 per cent mark is, to say the least, some evidence.

In respect of the other two courses (HMB 200 and MIE 304) no evidence was presented of the extent of work completed, and, consequently, the appeal in respect of those two courses is dismissed.