



FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: UTM Academic Affairs Committee

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PRESENTER: N/A
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DATE: May 2, 2022 for May 9, 2022

AGENDA ITEM: 9

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Annual Report: Committee On Standing, Office of the Registrar, 2020-21

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Under section 5.7 of its terms of reference, the Academic Affairs Committee receives reports from its subcommittee on academic appeals.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. UTM Academic Affairs Committee [For Information] (May 9, 2022)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The annual report for 2019-20 was provided for information to the Academic Affairs Committee on May 3, 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The purpose of the information package is to inform the Academic Affairs Committee of the work of Committee on Standing (COS) specifically providing details concerning the focus of the work, the numbers of cases considered and the outcomes. It is not intended to create a discussion regarding individual cases or their specifics, as they were dealt with by a body, which was bound by due process and fairness. The COS reviews appeals for petitions decisions made by the Office of the Registrar.

The report covers the period between September 1, 2020, to August 31, 2021

The report highlights the types of petitions assessed by the Office of the Registrar, totaling 5602 in the given period.

The COS met 10 times to review 80 appeals. 32 were granted and 47 were refused; 15 appellants then submitted 20 appeals to the Academic Appeals Subcommittee.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

Annual Report: Committee On Standing, Office of the Registrar, 2020-21

Annual Report: Committee on Standing, 2020-21

Prepared by: The Office of the Registrar

The University of Toronto Mississauga Office of the Registrar (OR) adjudicates petition requests on behalf of the Committee on Standing (COS) as well as manages the hearing of first appeals, of refused petitions, to the members of COS. In addition to the Assistant Registrar, Academic Standards and Petitions, there is also the Academic Standards and Petitions Coordinator. The membership is comprised of faculty members, the Dean of Student Affairs, and a current student at UTM. Representatives from the OR attend hearings in a non-voting capacity, with the exception of the Registrar and Director of Enrolment Management, who serves as the Chair of COS and who is pleased to provide this summary report for September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021.

Petitions and Committee on Standing - An Overview

The OR processed 5602 petition requests on behalf of the COS in 2020-21. The largest number processed was for **first deferral of unwritten UTM examinations** which comprised 29.57% and the second largest was for **course overloads** which comprised 16.28% of the requests. Although this number for course overloads appears large, it is more a return to the norm compared to the previous session (2019-20) that saw a marked spike which we attributed to the shift to online courses for the Fall/Winter 2020-21 and Summer 2021 academic sessions. In addition to the above details, there was a reduction in the requests for **further deferrals of UTM examinations** over this period by almost half; at the same time there was a sharp increase in requests for **extensions of time beyond the term** to approximately double that of the 2019-20 academic session. This could be attributed, again, to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the students as well as the faculty members. Please note, extensions are usually granted by the instructor until the end of term and petitions are required for extensions beyond the term.

Petition Type	# of Petitions	Granted	Refused	Deferred	Cancelled
Late Withdrawal	704	381	297	3	23
Extension of Time	749	490	144	5	110
First deferral of unwritten UTM examination	1656	1603	22	0	31
Further deferral of unwritten UTM examination	379	301	30	2	46
First/Further Deferral of unwritten St. George/UTSC examination	20	12	4	1	3
Lift of 1 year suspension	66	12	43	1	10
Lift of 3 year suspension	25	3	15	1	6
Return early from 3 year suspension	25	6	17	0	2
Lift of refused further registration	5	1	1	0	3
Exception to Degree	690	302	309	15	64
Late enrolment	312	146	152	0	14
Course overload	912	405	316	42	149
Other	59	6	21	1	31
Total	5602	3668	1371	71	492

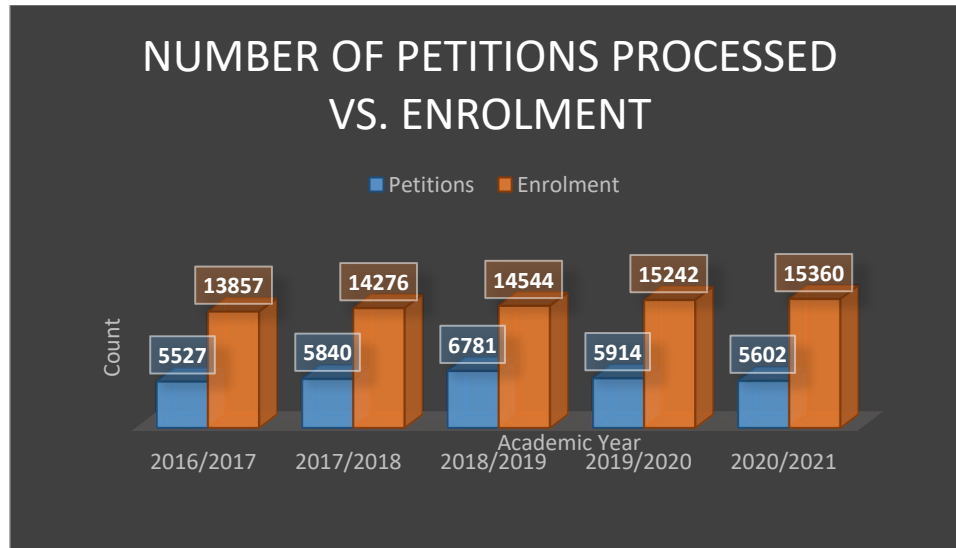


Figure 1. Number of Petitions Processed vs. Enrolment 2016-17 to 2020-21

Regular and Deferred Exams

The OR scheduled a total of 81,959 final examinations for the December 2020, February 2021, April 2021, June 2021 and August 2021 regular and special (deferred) exam periods. Due to COVID-19, final examinations for periods in this session were not facilitated by the OR; instead they were administered by the Course Instructors and the Academic Departments. Approximately 36.7% of all petitions were for deferrals from 13.38% of students registered during the 2020-21 sessions. All examinations were conducted by the Academic Departments during the February, April, June and August exam periods, rather than the Office of the Registrar.

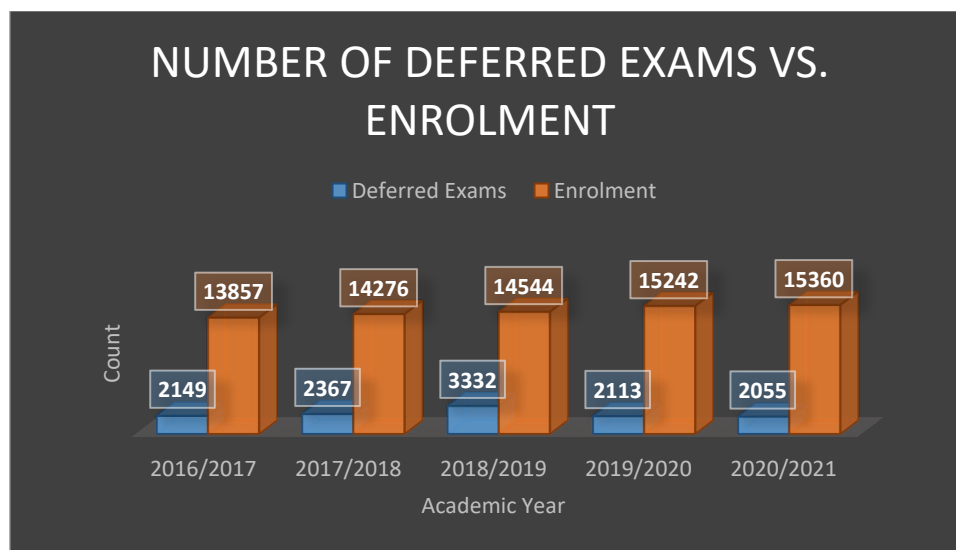


Figure 1. Number of Deferred Exams vs. Enrolment 2016-17 to 2020-21

Committee on Standing Cases

The COS will review an appeal with new information (not presented in the original petition request) within 90 days of the original petition decision date. Appeals must be submitted in writing to the OR. All appeals are heard by the COS before the student can appeal to the UTM Academic Appeals Subcommittee.

The COS met 10 times to review 80 appeals. 32 were granted and 47 were refused. The increase in total appeals can again be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic that impacted the Fall/Winter 2020-21 and Summer 2021 sessions. 15 appellants then went on to submit 20 appeals to the Academic Appeals Subcommittee.

Appeal Type	# of Appellants	# of Appeals	Appeals Granted	Appeals Refused	# Appeals Deferred
Late withdrawal without academic penalty	16	23	10	13	0
Lift of Suspension (One Year, Three Year, Refused Further Registration)	15	15	3	12	0
Deferral of unwritten examination	7	9	3	6	0
Extension of Time	10	12	5	6	1
Exception to Degree and Credit/No Credit (removal or granting)	19	19	11	8	0
Other	2	2	0	2	0
Late Enrolment	0	0	0	0	0
Total	68	80	32	47	1

Late Withdrawal without Academic Penalty (WDR) vs. Late Withdrawal after the Drop Deadline (LWD)

During 2019-20, LWDs were not processed in large numbers due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the University's temporary changes in policy to accommodate students. One of those changes was an extension to April 22, 2020, of the last day to drop a course from the academic record, for all Winter Term S and Y courses. The numbers for 2020-21 are a return to a more normal pattern compared to sessions prior to COVID-19.

Academic Year	WDR	LWD	Total	LWD% vs. Enrolment
<u>2016-2017</u>	817	2473	3290	18%
<u>2017-2018</u>	779	2599	3378	19%
<u>2018-2019</u>	907	2670	3577	24%
<u>2019-2020</u>	430	1707	2137	14%
<u>2020-2021</u>	577	2225	2802	18%