

TO: UTSC Academic Affairs Committee

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DATE: August 26, 2022 for September 12, 2022

AGENDA ITEM:

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Annual Report: 2021-22 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 12, 2022)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The Annual Report: 2020-21 Subcommittee on Academic appeals was presented for information to the UTSC Academic Affairs Committee on September 13, 2021.

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 (SAA) 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:

Academic Year (Sep 1- Aug 31)	# of Petitions Filed
2015 - 2016	2446
2016 - 2017	2643
2017 - 2018	2812
2018 - 2019	3287
2019 - 2020	2394
2020 - 2021	2130
2021 - 2022 (up to August 25)	2604

The increase in petitions in 2021-22 has primarily been due to deferred examination requests. The return to in-person examinations for many courses in April resulted in an increase in petitions from students who indicated COVID symptoms, positive test or isolation as reasons that prevented them from coming to campus to write exams.

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

Calendar Year (Jan 1 -Dec 31)	# of petition decisions reviewed by DAC
2015	22
2016	12
2017	15
2018	10
2019	7
2020	12
2021	9
2022 (up to August 25)	7

Appeals heard by the Subcommittee on Academic Appeals:

Academic Year (Sep 1 – Aug 31)	# of appeals heard by the Subcommittee on Academic Appeals
2015-16	2
2016-17	3
2017-18	1
2018-19	1
2019-20	0
2020-21	1
2021-22	2

The data provided indicates that while the number of petitions is high, the number of cases that require adjudication by the DAC or the SAA are very low and are generally in decline. Early resolution at the DAC results in the low number of appeals reviewed by the SAA. 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.