



FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: Academic Board

SPONSOR: Mr. Christopher Lang, Director, Office of Appeals, Discipline and Faculty
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PRESENTER: See Sponsor
CONTACT INFO:

DATE: May 16, 2024 for May 23, 2024

AGENDA ITEM: 15c

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

University Tribunal, Information Reports, Spring, 2024.

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The University Tribunal hears cases of academic discipline under the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters, 2019* (the “Code”)¹ which are not disposed of under the terms of the Code by the Division.

Section 5.2.6 (b) of the *Terms of Reference* of the Academic Board provides for the Board to receive for information reports, without names, on the disposition of cases in accordance with the Code.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. Academic Board [for information] (May 23, 2024)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The last semi-annual report came to the Academic Board on November 16, 2023.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The purpose of the information package is to fulfill the requirements of the University Tribunal and, in so doing, inform the Board of the Tribunal’s work and the matters it considers, and the process it follows. It is not intended to create a discussion regarding individual cases, their specifics or the sanctions imposed,

¹ <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>

as these were dealt with by an adjudicative body with a legally qualified chair, bound by due process and fairness, and based on the record of evidence and submissions put before it by the parties.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

- Information Reports of Tribunal Decisions under the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters, 2019* (Spring 2024)

TRIBUNAL DECISIONS UNDER THE
CODE OF BEHAVIOUR ON ACADEMIC MATTERS
(SPRING 2024)

RECEIVED UNAUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE FOR AN ASSIGNMENT

Suspension of four years; notation on the Student's transcript for five years; grade of zero in the course; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student received unauthorized assistance for an assignment by purchasing a version of the completed assignment. The Student pleaded guilty and agreed with the facts and the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the proposed penalty is within the range of penalties imposed in similar cases when one considers factors such as the offence in question, whether the Student had previously been found guilty of an academic offence, the Student's participation in the process, and whether there was an agreed statement of facts and joint submission on penalty; the Student's participation in the process is a mitigating factor; the fact that this is a first offence for the Student is a further factor that mitigates penalty; and the Student's request for a more lenient penalty at the hearing was simply the expression of a student in a difficult situation and not a genuine attempt to resile from the joint submission.

NOTE: THE STUDENT APPEALED THE SANCTION – APPEAL DISMISSED

The Student appealed the penalty and sought to reduce the suspension. In upholding the Trial Division's decision, the Discipline Appeals Board noted the following: the Student has demonstrated no basis to permit them to resile from the joint submission on penalty; the Student has not claimed that they signed the joint submission on penalty under any duress or without understanding the consequences; the joint submission on penalty ought to be afforded significant deference at the Tribunal level for a number of policy reasons: cooperation, consistency and certainty; joint submissions on penalty and agreed statements of fact benefit the administration of the Tribunal by encouraging cooperation by students which saves resources and provides for a certainty of outcomes for the University where students are prepared to admit their guilt; and the Student's joint submission on penalty was also consistent with the agreed-upon penalty granted to another student who had purchased the same assignment at the same time.

OBTAINED UNAUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE IN AN ASSIGNMENT

Suspension of two years and four months; notation on the Student's transcript for four years from the date of the order until their graduation, whichever comes first; grade of zero in the course; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student obtained unauthorized assistance in an assessment by participating during an online review session conducted by Easy EDU during the time set aside for the completion of the assessment. The Student pleaded guilty and agreed with the facts and the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the length of suspension was within a reasonable range and did not reach the threshold necessary to justify a more significant penalty; there was an attempt to cover up the Student's misconduct by involving another former student in an elaborate story; this was the Student's first offence; at least 180 students attended the EASY EDU session; the type of warning that was provided by the professor in this course could not have been clearer; there is a real risk that the University's integrity will be affected whenever there is a mass cheating incident such as this one; abuse of asynchronous/online testing is an ongoing issue at the University and, as exemplified by the cases presented to the Tribunal, has been of particular concern in the last several years; and, it is appropriate to send a very strong message to students that the use of unauthorized assistance is academic misconduct to be treated very seriously.

NOTE: THE STUDENT APPEALED THE LIABILITY AND SANCTIONS – APPEAL DISMISSED

The Student appealed the Trial Division's decision on liability and sanction. In dismissing the Student's appeal, the Panel noted the following: the Discipline Appeals Board lacks jurisdiction to hear appeals from findings of fact; the Tribunal did not shift the burden of proof from the Provost to the Student; a party who bears a burden of proof may fulfil that burden in different ways, including through eliciting evidence on cross-examination of opposing witnesses that supports the cross-examining party's position; there was no legal error in the Tribunal's analysis of credibility and reliability; the Student advanced no grounds to challenge the Trial Division's decision on penalty; and, the Discipline Appeals Board saw no basis to interfere with it.

**PLAGIARIZED AN ASSIGNMENT AND FORGED SEVERAL DOCUMENTS
Expulsion; suspension of up to five years from the date of the order or until Governing Council makes its decision, whichever comes first; corresponding notation on the Student's transcript; grade of zero in the course; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld**

The Student committed the following offences: plagiarized an assignment; forged documents that purported to be signed by an assistant in the Office of the Registrar at UTSC as part of application packages for a prize worth USD \$200,000; forged an email from a concocted email address, purportedly from a non-profit organization in an attempt to cover up the allegation related to the applications for the prize. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student

undermined the grades-based system of evaluation and broke the honour code that is essential to modern learning; students must understand that this kind of misconduct will have serious repercussions so that they will be dissuaded from the temptation to consider cheating; the Student committed a serious form of academic misconduct; the Student committed each of the offences knowingly and deliberately, not through carelessness or inadvertence; the offences were the result of the Student's calculated conduct; the Student's forgery could have resulted in a significant financial gain of USD \$200,000; the University is vulnerable to, and suffers detriment from, the forgery; the forgery was directed towards a third party in the University's name; the seriousness of the offences and the need for deterrence are particularly compelling in this case; and the sanctions were consistent with other decisions of the Tribunal involving similar misconduct.

NOTE: THE STUDENT APPEALED THE DECISION ON LIABILITY AND THE IMPOSED SANCTIONS – APPEAL DISMISSED

In upholding the sanctions imposed by the Trial Division, the Discipline Appeals Board noted the following: the Student did not persuade the Discipline Appeals Board that there was any basis to interfere with the Trial Division's penalty; the Student was unable to challenge the Trial Division's decision in any legally meaningful way; there was no suggestion that the Trial Division had considered irrelevant factors, or failed to consider relevant factors, or had improperly weighed the factors; and given the academic offences that the Student was found to have committed were serious and "shocking," the Trial Division's conclusion was unassailable.

PLAGIARIZED AN ASSIGNMENT AND USED A FORGED DOCUMENT

Suspension of five years; notation on the Student's transcript for six years or until graduation, whichever comes first; grade of zero in the course; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student plagiarized an assignment, and submitted a forged invoice in an attempt to cover up an offence. The Student pleaded guilty to some of the charges and agreed with some of the facts and with the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the joint submission is reasonable; the offences were serious and were not the Student's first offences; the timing of the Student's two prior offences is relevant and concerning, as the Student had been sanctioned prior to committing the offences at issue in this matter; the Student's likelihood of committing a further offence is serious and must be factored into the penalty; forgery and plagiarism offences are on the most serious end of the spectrum of Code offences because these offences are a breach of the University's trust relationship with its students; the Student cooperated in the process and entered into the agreed statement of facts and joint submission on penalty, thereby showing insight and remorse regarding the plagiarism offence; the Student voluntarily gave an undertaking to attend academic workshops, demonstrating their desire to rehabilitate their academic career at

the University; there were no mitigating factors relating to the forgery offence; the Student did not cooperate on the forgery charge and, therefore, the University was required to expend significant resources investigating the charge and prosecuting it; and the recommended sanctions are appropriate in the circumstances.

MULTIPLE INSTANCES OF OBTAINING UNAUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE IN AN ASSESSMENT AND IN TESTS

Suspension of four years; notation on the Student's transcript for five years; grade of zero in the courses; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student received unauthorized assistance in relation to a final assessment in a course, and also collaborated with other students on two term tests in another course. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: using unauthorized aids in the completion of tests and assessments is a serious offence that strikes at the very core of the academic process, especially as more and more evaluations are conducted online; the answers provided regarding one of the courses drew on answers posted to Chegg – a subscription-based, commercial website; the student's non-attendance at the hearing leaves the Panel without any evidence of remorse or mitigating factors that may reduce the appropriate sanction; the Student has previously been found guilty of using an unauthorized aid in the 2019-2020 academic year; the Student admitted to that offence and was sanctioned and then went on to commit the present offences; and this is strong evidence of a real risk of future re-offence.

OBTAINED UNAUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE IN AN ASSESSMENT

Suspension of three years; notation on the Student's transcript for four years; grade of zero in the course; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student, along with another student, obtained unauthorized assistance in relation to a final assessment in a course. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: using unauthorized aids in the completion of tests and assessments is a serious offence that strikes at the very core of the academic process, especially as more and more evaluations are conducted online; the answers provided regarding the course drew on answers posted to Chegg – a subscription-based, commercial website; the Student's non-attendance at the hearing leaves the Panel without any evidence of remorse or mitigating factors that may reduce the appropriate sanction; the Student was warned and on notice in relation to a prior offence when the current offence was committed; and the fact that they were aware their conduct was under review at the time they committed this offence is some evidence that supports a finding that there is a risk of the Student re-offending.

MULTIPLE INSTANCES OF OBTAINING UNAUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE, AND ON TWO OCCASIONS AIDED AND ASSISTED OTHER STUDENTS TO COMMIT AN ACADEMIC OFFENCE, AND ENGAGED IN ANOTHER FORM OF CHEATING, ACADEMIC DISHONESTY OR MISCONDUCT, FRAUD OR MISREPRESENTATION
Suspension of five years; notation on the Student's transcript for six years; grade of zero in the course; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student provided and received unauthorized assistance on a final exam and on a test, and also engaged in academic dishonesty and cheating by lying in the Dean's Designate meetings in an attempt to cover up the offences. The Student pleaded guilty and agreed with the facts and the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: it accepted the agreed-upon sanctions with reservations; the Student's character and the likelihood of repetition of the offence support the most severe sanction, which is a recommendation that they be expelled; the Student committed four academic offences on numerous occasions and committed these offences while another offence was being processed; the Student lied about these offences after engaging in a module on ethics; given this history, the chance of repetition of the offence is very high; the nature of the offences are very serious; the University depends on students abiding by the conduct they set out in each course, especially where exams are taken online or at home; the Student and many others disregarded the confirmation of academic integrity statement they completed; the University also relies on students honestly engaging in the disciplinary process; the detriment to the University and the need to deter others are both significant with the offences at issue; the fact that the Student cooperated and entered into an agreed statement of facts on both the offence and penalty and a joint submission on penalty is the sole mitigating factor; the agreed-upon sanctions are not contrary to the public interest, nor do they bring the administration of justice into disrepute; and the Panel must not substitute its own judgment in place of the joint submission on penalty.

OBTAINED UNAUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE IN TWO TESTS

Suspension of five years; notation on the Student's transcript for six years; grade of zero in the course; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student obtained unauthorized assistance in connection with two term tests by using a real-time camera and earpieces. The Student pleaded guilty and agreed with the facts and the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student demonstrated remorse; by their statements and by their cooperation, they demonstrated insight into their actions and that there is little to no likelihood of a repetition of the offence; this offence required deliberate planning and subterfuge, as the camera appears to have been disguised as a

button on the Student's shirt and the earpieces required a special tool to install and remove them; this scheme had a commercial element to it, as it involved the Student paying someone for the unauthorized assistance they received; obtaining unauthorized assistance on a test, generally, is an extremely serious offence that harms the institution and the academic process; it is a serious breach of academic integrity and can be seen as an attempt to defraud the University; obtaining real-time assistance using a hidden camera and earpieces is taking things to a new level, one that has only been possible in very recent years as technology once reserved to spy novels has become readily available to anyone; the fact that the Student was caught in this instance is a testament to a professor's vigilance in monitoring their students' progress and spotting anomalies; the penalty must act as general deterrent against this kind of surreptitious behaviour; it is important to send a strong message to the community that this will not be tolerated; the Student has no prior record of academic misconduct, obtained legal advice, demonstrated remorse, apologized, has shown insight into what has occurred, and cooperated with the University; and the agreed-upon sanction is reasonable and appropriate in the circumstances and is consistent with prior decisions.

FORGED TRANSCRIPT

Expulsion; suspension of up to five years from the date of the order or until Governing Council makes its decision, whichever comes first; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student forged a document that purported to be their transcript from the University for the purpose of obtaining employment. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: students must understand that this kind of misconduct will have serious repercussions; the offences were the result of the Student's calculated conduct; the University is vulnerable to, and suffers detriment from, the forgery offences that the Student committed, particularly as the forgery was directed towards a third party in the University's name; a severe sanction is required where a student is guilty of forgery to deter others who may contemplate similar misconduct; forgery is among the most serious academic offences; there was no joint recommendation on sanction and no real mitigating circumstances; and the sanction is consistent with similar cases of forgery.

FORGED A VERIFICATION OF STUDENT ILLNESS OR INJURY FORM

Suspension of three years; notation on the Student's transcript for four years or until graduation, whichever ever comes first; grade of zero in the course; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student submitted a forged Verification of Student Illness or Injury Form and submitted it in order to write a deferred exam in a course. The Student pleaded guilty and agreed with the facts and the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and

in imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the penalty proposed by the parties was representative of a typical sentence in cases of similar circumstance; a joint submission on penalty must be measured against the understood and entrenched set of values and behaviours which members of the University are expected to uphold; only if the joint submission is fundamentally offensive to these values may it be rejected; and there was no reason to deviate from the joint submission made by the parties.

OBTAINED AND PROVIDED UNAUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE FOR TWO TESTS

Suspension of four years; notation on the Student's transcript for five years; grade of zero in the course; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student obtained and provided unauthorized assistance in relation to two tests in a course. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student's absence from the hearing and their two prior similar offences reflected poorly on the Student's character; there was a real risk of a repeated offence absent a significant sanction; providing or obtaining unauthorized assistance is a very serious offence that strikes at the heart of the University's evaluation process and the University's core values of honesty and integrity, requiring the imposition of a serious sanction to achieve general deterrence; and there was no evidence of any extenuating circumstances, particularly given that the Student had failed to cooperate fully with the discipline process and to accept responsibility.

FORGED TWO DOCUMENTS

Suspension of four years; notation on the Student's transcript for four years; grade of zero in the course; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student submitted a forged death certificate and a document containing an invitation to a celebration of life in support of their petition to obtain an extension to hand in a paper. The Student agreed with the facts, and in finding the Student guilty and in imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the nature of the offence, and in particular the fact that the Student had circulated forged documents on two separate occasions, coupled with the fact that the Student had committed a prior academic offence, the Student merited a more severe penalty; the gravity of the offence, one of the most serious contemplated by the Code, merited a sanction to meet the goals of both specific and general deterrence; and it was unnecessary to prolong the duration of the notation on the Student's academic record beyond the period of the suspension proposed by the University, given that the Student had already completed their coursework for their undergraduate degree and would not be returning to their program.

PERSONATION AT A FINAL EXAMINATION

Suspension of five years; notation on the Student's transcript for ten years; grade of zero in the course; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student had another person personate them at a final examination. The Student pleaded guilty and agreed with the facts and the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the agreed-upon sanctions were within the range of appropriate penalties given the nature of the offence and the Student's past conviction; there was no reason to depart from the joint submission on penalty because of a concern that it would be contrary to the public interest or would bring the administration of justice into disrepute; personation can be difficult to catch and strikes at the heart of academic integrity by undermining the evaluation process and fairness to other students; there were mitigating factors in this case, including the Student's early admission of guilt and cooperation in the discipline process and the death of their grandmother at the time of the final examination; there was also evidence of mental health issues, although it was not established that those issues were present at the time that the offence was committed; the Student had completed the requisite credits to graduate but is now prevented from doing so until the completion of their suspension; and that delay is a significant penalty and will hopefully provide the Student with time to consider the consequences of their decisions.

OBTAINED UNAUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE AND ENGAGED IN ANOTHER FORM OF CHEATING, ACADEMIC DISHONESTY OR MISCONDUCT IN RELATION TO TESTS AND FINAL EXAMS

Suspension of four years; notation on the Student's transcript for five years; final grade of zero in the courses; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student collaborated with other students on two term tests and final exams in three different courses. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student had failed to participate in the proceeding or to attend any meeting with the Dean's Designate; there was no evidence indicating that the Student had expressed remorse or insight; the Student had previously committed one academic offence; obtaining unauthorized assistance on an academic examination is a serious offence that strikes at the heart of academic integrity, and the appropriate sanction must send a strong message to other students that such misconduct is considered a serious offence; the onus was on the Student to put forward any mitigating circumstances, and given their absence, there was no evidence before the Panel of any such circumstances.

OBTAINED UNAUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE DURING AN EXAM AND PLAGIARIZED AN ESSAY

Suspension of three years; notation on Student's transcript for four years; grade of zero in two courses; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student collaborated with other students on a final exam and included passages in a final essay from online sources without citations. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: plagiarism has a deliberate and intentional element to it; while the Student did not have a prior offence, they committed two separate offences, which could have been prosecuted separately; it is therefore appropriate to consider the case as though the Student had a prior offence; and the sanctions are consistent with sanctions that have been ordered in respect of similar fact patterns.

PLAGIARIZED MULTIPLE ASSIGNMENTS AND A TEST AND OBTAINED UNAUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE FOR MULTIPLE ASSIGNMENTS AND QUIZZES

Suspension of three years; notation on the Student's transcript for four years; grade of zero in the course; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student plagiarized multiple assignments and a final test and obtained unauthorized assistance in connection with multiple pieces of academic work (i.e., an assignment and multiple quizzes). In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: while the Student is under no obligation to participate or attend, their failure to do so is relevant because the Panel was left without any evidence of remorse; there was no evidence that a more lenient sanction should be imposed on the basis of the Student's character; there was no evidence of any mitigating circumstances; another student was sanctioned by the Dean for similar conduct and consistency with that needs to be taken into account given a recent Discipline Appeals Board decision; and there is a likelihood of repetition given the number of offences and that very significant time and resources were required to prepare for the hearing as a result of the Student's failure to participate at virtually all stages in the process.

FABRICATED AND FALSIFIED RESEARCH FOR A THESIS

Cancellation and recall of the Student's degree; permanent notation on the Student's transcript; grade of zero in the course; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student's research data for their PhD thesis was fabricated. They submitted their thesis and research papers for their degree of Doctor of Philosophy knowing they contained statements of facts or references that had been concocted, and during the

investigation they tried to delete the falsified research to avoid detection. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student fabricated data that formed the basis for their thesis and then relied on that data to co-author papers with their supervisor, thereby jeopardizing their supervisor's academic reputation, and the reputation of the University broadly; the Student relied on their degree to secure a tenured track position at Northwestern University; it would be hard to imagine a more serious offence; PhD degrees from the University are prestigious and must be protected; the Student's actions harm the University and risk enormous detriment; the Panel had no evidence of any extenuating circumstances; the academic community broadly needs to know that the University takes these issues seriously and will act to protect its degrees; if this misconduct had been caught before the Student graduated, they would not have received the degree based on the misconduct; these cases do not arise often, and when they do, they must attract severe consequences; and the sanction is consistent with similar cases.

PLAGIARIZED A FINAL EXAM AND USED A FORGED VERIFICATION OF ILLNESS FORM MULTIPLE TIMES

Suspension of three years and four months; notation on the Student's transcript until graduation; grade of zero in the courses; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student plagiarized a final exam and submitted a forged Verification of Illness Form in support of petitions to defer writing three final exams for three different courses. The Student pleaded guilty and agreed with the facts and the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student has accepted a degree of responsibility for their actions by eventually admitting the charges and agreeing to a joint submission on sanction; the Students' admissions would have carried more weight if they had been made earlier; the Student twice submitted a falsified Verification of Illness Form to try and defer three final exams while other charges were pending; there is a pattern of dishonesty that requires a significant sanction to ensure this pattern does not continue; the charges involve deliberate falsifications that have significant effects and strike at the core of academic integrity; the need for general deterrence is a predominant concern; the agreed-upon sanctions is within the range of acceptable outcomes.

MULTIPLE FORGED DOCUMENTS

Suspension of four years; notation on Student's transcript for four years from date of order or until graduation, whichever occurs first; grade of zero in the courses; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

On four occasions the Student submitted forged screenshots in support of their assertions that their final grades in three courses had been recorded inaccurately and should be

raised. The Student pleaded guilty and agreed with the facts and the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student had no prior history of academic misconduct; by admitting their misconduct and agreeing to the sanctions, the Student saved the cost and expense of a fully contested hearing; the Student persisted in their false claims of having turned in numerous assignments when they knew they had not; despite the Student's expressions of remorse, there is concern that the misconduct could be repeated; the falsifications were deliberate and could not have occurred by accident or neglect; while the Student's stress may have been a factor that explains why they engaged in blatant lies, it is not an excuse; considerable resources were expended investigating the Student's false claims and fabricated evidence; the Student's dishonesty involved three different courses and multiple forged documents over a period of more than six weeks; the proposed sanctions are firmly within the range of what has been ordered in similar cases; the four-year suspension has been back-dated to more than five months before the hearing date, and tailored so that it does not expire mid-way through an academic term; the sanction does not shock the conscience or bring the administration of justice into disrepute; and the sanction represents an appropriate balance of the mitigating and aggravating factors.

OBTAINED AND PROVIDED UNAUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE ON AN EXAM AND A TEST

Suspension of three years; notation on the Student's transcript for four years; grade of zero in the course; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student obtained and provided unauthorized assistance in relation to a test and final exam, and then told other students not to say anything about the exam to the Dean's office. The Student pleaded guilty and agreed with the facts and the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: proceeding in accordance with the joint submission on penalty would not be contrary to the public interest or bring the administration of justice into disrepute; the Student's offences are clearly serious in nature; the Student's provision and receipt of unauthorized assistance was pre-meditated, deliberate, and extensive; the harm caused to the University by these offences is extremely significant; this type of conduct erodes trust between the University and its students, between prospective employers and the University and its students, and between other academic institutions and the University and its students; there is a clear likelihood of repetition of these offences; the Student had a prior offence, involving a midterm examination in which they received unauthorized assistance from and provided unauthorized assistance to two other students, both of whom were involved in the matters at issue in this hearing; the Student was experiencing attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and pandemic-related anxiety and depression, at the time of the offences; they are now seeking medical treatment for those health concerns; the Student showed insight into and remorse for their actions; and the proposed

sanctions fell within the well-defined range of penalties established by the jurisprudence for similar cases.

POSSESSED AN UNAUTHORIZED AID AND ATTEMPTED TO OBTAIN UNAUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE DURING AN EXAM

Suspension of five years; notation on the Student's transcript for six years; grade of zero in the course; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student used an earpiece, camera and cell phone during a final exam. The Student pleaded guilty and agreed with the facts and the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: this case's fact pattern would likely warrant a recommendation of expulsion, but there are strong extenuating circumstances; the Student's personal circumstances, substantiated by medical evidence, are compelling; the Student's academic record shows that they achieved generally good grades before the events; and the proposed sanctions are within the range of acceptable outcomes, and reflect a reasonable balance of the many strong and competing concerns.

PLAGIARIZED AN ASSIGNMENT AND A PRELIMINARY RESEARCH PAPER, AND ENGAGED IN ANOTHER FORM OF CHEATING, ACADEMIC DISHONESTY OR MISCONDUCT, FRAUD OR MISREPRESENTATION

Suspension of four years; notation on the Student's transcript for five years; grade of zero in the course; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student plagiarized on both an assignment and a preliminary research paper. They also misrepresented sources. The Student pleaded guilty and agreed with the facts and the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the agreed facts establish that the Student had committed two prior offences, and that they committed the further offences at issue in this proceeding very shortly after acknowledging commission of previous offences; the Panel is not obliged to accept a joint submission but should only reject such submission when it would be contrary to the public interest or would bring the administration of justice into disrepute; with respect to character, the Student admitted the offences, cooperated with the University, and signed an undertaking to take certain academic success courses; and the Panel agrees with the joint submission regarding penalty on the basis of the mitigating circumstances which exist in the evidence of early cooperation, remorse and the impact of the COVID pandemic on the Student.