



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 13, 2025 for May 29, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: 14(d)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

University Tribunal, Information Reports, Spring, 2025.

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 29, 2025)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The last semi-annual report came to the Academic Board on November 14, 2024.

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 2025)

TRIBUNAL DECISIONS UNDER THE CODE OF BEHAVIOUR ON ACADEMIC MATTERS
(SPRING 2025)

USED UNAUTHORIZED AIDS ON MULTIPLE ASSIGNMENTS AND PLAGIARISED LAB ASSIGNMENTS

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; grades of zero in five courses; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student committed nine offences. They used an unauthorized aid in connection with term tests, final assessments, and homework assignments in multiple courses. They also plagiarized multiple lab assignments in another class. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student had one prior offence; the Student plead guilty to 7 of the 9 offences at his Dean's Meeting, but they elected not to participate in the hearing, so there was no evidence of extenuating circumstances and no remorse; there is a serious risk of reoffending; and that the Panel believed the academic relationship between the Student and the University had been irreparably broken.

USED AN UNAUTHORIZED AID IN A FINAL EXAM AND HAD SOMEONE PERSONATE THEM DURING AN ONLINE TEST

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; grades of zero in two courses; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student was found guilty of using an unauthorized aid (Chegg) during a final exam. They also had someone personate them during an online test. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student chose not to participate in the disciplinary process; the Student had someone personate them only a month after they were emailed regarding concerns with their answers on the final exam in the first class, which leads to the conclusion that there is a high risk of repetition; there was no evidence of any extenuating circumstances; few actions are more dishonest and display a lack of integrity than having someone take an exam for oneself, and it cannot be tolerated; and a serious sanction will send the message to students that impersonation is not tolerated at the University.

USED AN UNAUTHORIZED AID IN A FINAL EXAM

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 admitted guilt to paying a third party for the answers to an exam and brought a smartwatch into the exam to refer to the answers. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: while the Student admitted guilt, they did not express regret at the end of the hearing process; the Student demonstrated a disregard for the academic discipline process that is not consistent with an appreciation of the gravity of the offence or remorse about what occurred; the conduct required premeditation, the purchase of academic work, and the use of technology to obtain the answers to the exam; the scheme had a commercial element to it; there was no evidence of extenuating or mitigating circumstances; and the sanction was consistent with prior decisions of the Tribunal.

USED FORGED DOCUMENT TO DEFER AN EXAM

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

The Student purchased and submitted a forged Verification of Student Illness or Injury Form to support their request for a deferred exam. The Student plead 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 admitted the offence and demonstrated remorse; it was the Student's first offence and they cooperated in the process; the Student demonstrated insight into their actions and there is little to no likelihood of repetition; the offence is serious, requires deliberation, and caused detriment to the University; the offence also implicates a medical professional, abusing their name and credentials; and the jointly submitted sanction is reasonable and within the accepted range for similar cases.

OBTAINING UNAUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE ON AN ASSIGNMENT AND EXAM, AND PLAGIARISM AND CONCOCTING SOURCES IN AN ESSAY

Suspension of five years; notation on the Student's transcript for six years or graduation, whichever is earlier; grades of zero in the courses; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student was found guilty of obtaining unauthorized assistance in connection with a homework assignment in one class and a final exam in another. They were also found guilty of plagiarizing and concocting sources with respect to an essay in a third class. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student engaged in two earlier incidents of academic misconduct; the Student did not appear at the hearing; the offences are very serious and strike at the heart of the University's core values; the Student demonstrated a generalized willingness to cheat the system in that their wrongdoing extended over three separate courses and a five-month period of time; the Panel considered a recommendation of expulsion, but decided that as the Student was close to graduation, some degree of leniency was warranted, given the investment that was at risk if the Student was expelled.

PLAGIARISED A FINAL PAPER

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 admitted to purchasing a paper from an online service and agreed with the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: although there were no extenuating circumstances that would otherwise explain the Student's misconduct, the Student had demonstrated insight into their actions early on in the disciplinary process; the Student had no prior record of academic misconduct; plagiarism, particularly the purchasing of academic work, is one of the most egregious offences as it requires a degree of planning - conduct which, in the absence of mitigating factors would usually merit the expulsion or lengthy suspension of the Student; and the integrity of the University, and the value of the degrees it confers, are undermined when students engage in serious academic misconduct.

PLAGIARISED AN ASSIGNMENT, PROVIDED UNAUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE ON AN ASSIGNMENT, POSSESSED AN UNAUTHORIZED AID IN TWO COURSES, FALSIFIED A DOCUMENT TO GAIN ADMISSION TO A COURSE

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 five courses; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student was found guilty of plagiarism, providing unauthorized assistance, possessing unauthorized aids in two courses, and forgery with respect to their Russian language skills to enroll in a class. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student committed one prior offence; the Student admitted guilt to two sets of charges, but denied the remaining charges and failed to appear at the hearing; there was no mitigating or character evidence in their defence; the sanction is consistent with other cases in which expulsion was ordered; and these repeated offences of dishonesty must be denounced and they require the strongest available sanctions in order to deter others.

USED UNAUTHORIZED AIDS IN EXAMS IN TWO COURSES

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

The Student admitted guilt to using unauthorized aids during the exams for two courses and agreed with the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student had no history of misconduct; they were cooperative and agreed to enter a plea earlier than the hearing date; the Student was warned about misconduct after the first exam, which took place a week before the second exam; there were elements of premeditation, surreptitious use of technology and the provision of unauthorized aid to other students; without the assistance of an informant, the

offence may have gone undetected; and a serious and significant sanction was warranted in favour of specific and general deterrence.

PLAGIARISM IN A TERM TEST

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

The Student was found guilty of plagiarism in connection with a term test. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: as the Student did not participate in the proceedings, there was no evidence of insight or remorse, nor was there evidence of extenuating circumstances; plagiarism is an extremely serious offence that strikes at the heart of the integrity of academic work and cannot be tolerated; and the sanction is in line with past cases and is fair and appropriate.

USED AN UNAUTHORIZED AID IN A FINAL EXAM

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 admitted to possessing an unauthorized aid during a final exam. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: there were no extenuating circumstances in this case; the Student admitted to a prior offence just over a year before offence in question; the Student lied about the true nature of the earpieces and camera, thus aggravating the offence; and the sanction is consistent with prior decisions of this Tribunal.

FORGED DOCUMENTS TO SUPPORT PETITIONS

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; grades of zero in the courses; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student was found guilty of forging five medical notes to support requests for deferrals of exams in four different courses. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student did not participate in the hearing, so there is no evidence of their character; the likelihood of repetition of the offence is high given that they submitted several forged medical notes in different terms and different classes; the offence is significant and the need for deterrence is very high; if these offences are not treated seriously, there is no way to stem their proliferation and the burden of verification on the University is heavy; students who fraudulently procure accommodations do so to the detriment of fellow students who write the exams as scheduled; and the sanction is consistent with prior decisions of this Tribunal.

USED AN UNAUTHORIZED AID IN A FINAL EXAM

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 was found guilty of possessing an unauthorized aid during a final exam and paying a third party to pay for answers during the exam. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: there was no positive character evidence, as the Student elected not to participate in the process; the Student's withholding at his Dean's meeting evidence of the third party who they paid was deliberate and specifically non-cooperative/obstructionist; there is no evidence of the Student expressing remorse for their actions or of their offering an apology; in the absence of participation, the Panel was unable to properly assess individual rehabilitation; while it was the Student's first offence, the Panel had no indication that the Student meaningfully appreciated their wrongful conduct; the Panel had no comfort that they would not reoffend; the commercial element discloses the Student's deliberate planning and subterfuge; the use of devices that furnish "real-time" remunerated assistance to defeat the University's tools to otherwise mitigate opportunities to cheat (e.g., different versions of exams) represent extremely serious breaches of academic integrity; and the sanction is consistent with prior decisions of this Tribunal.

USED AN UNAUTHORIZED AID IN A FINAL EXAM

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 plead guilty to possessing an unauthorized aid during a final exam. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student's offence was a serious one. It was premeditated and designed to avoid detection; the use of mini earpieces and cameras is considered a serious breach of academic integrity and requires a strong sanction as a general deterrent; the Student already had three prior offences on their record and then lied about that fact throughout the discipline process until they were confronted with evidence of those offences; the number of prior offences demonstrated that the Student had failed to learn from their previous mistakes and that there was a strong likelihood that they would commit further offences absent a very serious penalty; the Student did not present compelling evidence of mitigating circumstances; they also relied on a statement that contained the false statement that they had a clean academic record; and the sanction is consistent with prior decisions of this Tribunal.

HAD SOMEONE PERSONATE THEM ON A TEST

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

The Student plead guilty to having another person personate them at a term test and agreed to the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student participated and cooperated in the academic discipline process; the Student did not have any prior offences; the Student's offence was a deliberate decision that required planning and the payment of money; personation undermines the trust and threatens the value that is placed on academic assessments; it is important to send a strong message that this type of misconduct, especially involving a commercial element, cannot be tolerated; the Student did not advise of any mitigating factors; and the joint submission was reasonable, having reviewed prior decisions.

SOLD EXAM GHOSTWRITING SERVICES AND PLAGIARISED TWO ASSIGNMENTS

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; grades of zero in the courses; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student was found guilty of plagiarism with respect to an assignment in one course and a quiz in another. They were also found guilty of attempting to aid other students to commit an academic offence by taking pictures of a final exam, intending to send the pictures to an online service that provides exam ghostwriting for a fee. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student's pattern of behaviour suggested a likelihood they would reoffend; the conduct regarding the exam was deliberate, premeditated, and egregious; there was no evidence of extenuating circumstances; plagiarism is a serious offence, but the for-profit scheme to ghostwrite exams cuts at the core of the integrity of the University; and the sanction is consistent with sanctions in other Tribunal cases.

PURCHASED A PAPER

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 was found guilty of plagiarism by purchasing a paper. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student did not participate in any aspect of the discipline proceedings, which is suggestive of a disregard for the seriousness of the conduct they engaged in; the act was one of deliberate dishonesty; there was no evidence of extenuating circumstances and nothing to suggest

that any leniency should be shown to the Student; there is a serious risk the Student would offend again, as they committed other offences in the past; and serial cheating of the type the Student has engaged in causes irreparable harm to the academic relationship between the University and its students.

OBTAINED UNAUTHORIZED AID ON A TEST AND PLAGIARISED TWO ESSAYS

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

The Student plead guilty to using an unauthorized aid in an exam and plagiarizing essays in two courses. The Student agreed to the proposed sanctions, save for the length of the notation. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student had extenuating circumstances and expressed remorse, which were considered as mitigating factors; this was not a single lapse of judgment, but the misconduct was extensive and deliberate; the Student committed two offences after being contacted about their first offence; the misconduct strikes at the heart of academic integrity and threatens to undermine the value placed on a degree; and the sanction is within the range established by the caselaw.

PURCHASED THE ANSWERS TO AN ASSIGNMENT

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 plead guilty to purchasing the answers to an assignment and agreed to the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Panel was required to accept the jointly proposed submission on penalty unless to do so would bring the administration of justice into disrepute or would be contrary to the public interest; and the penalty was within the reasonable range of penalty for similar conduct established by prior decisions of the Tribunal.

USED AN UNAUTHORIZED AID IN A FINAL EXAM

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

The Student plead guilty to possessing an unauthorized aid during a final exam and agreed to the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student apologized and expressed that the discipline process had impressed upon them the importance of academic honesty; buttonhole camera and spyware cases are amongst the most severe forms of misconduct before the Tribunal; the use of this technology is a form of premeditated cheating and must be

deterred; and the penalty is in line with previous cases where there was spyware and a joint submission on penalty.

HAD SOMEONE PERSONATE THEM DURING AN ORAL INTERVIEW TEST

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 plead guilty to paying someone to personate them during an oral interview test. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student fully engaged in the proceedings and admitted guilt once confronted with the allegation; the Student went to great lengths to mislead their instructor and cheat on the test; the likelihood of repetition is small; the amount of premeditation is the most notable aspect of the offence; the fact that there was a commercial element is most concerning; there were no extenuating circumstances; misconduct of this kind is difficult to detect; the consequences upon detection need to be severe enough to deter others; and the sanction is squarely within the typical range.

FORGED DOCUMENTS TO SUPPORT PETITIONS

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

The Student plead guilty to forging verification of illness forms to support petitions for deferrals of exams in two courses and agreed to the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: panels are expected to accept and implement joint submissions on penalty absent exceptional circumstances; this case is comparable to the penalties imposed in similar cases; when students take advantage of the system by submitting fraudulent claims, this breeds cynicism and distrust and is detrimental to the entire system of medical accommodations; it is an aggravating factor that there were two offences, but they were committed in a short time span during a period of particular difficulty for the student; the Student admitted their conduct, pleaded guilty, and was remorseful; they demonstrated respect for the University in their letter of remorse and a commitment to continuing their education with honesty and integrity; and the joint submission was neither contrary to the public interest nor would it bring the administration of justice into disrepute.

POSSESSED AN UNAUTHORIZED AID IN A FINAL 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 plead guilty to possessing an unauthorized aid during a final exam. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the offence

committed by the Student is among the worst things a student can do; there were legitimate factors of mitigation in the case; the Student was sincere in accepting responsibility for their actions; and the sanction was within the range of those imposed in similar cases.

PURCHASED AN ESSAY AND PLAGIARIZED AND CONCOCTED SOURCES ON A SECOND ESSAY, THEN ATTEMPTED TO COVER IT UP

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 courses; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student plead guilty to purchasing an essay from a third party and was found guilty of plagiarism and concocting facts and references with respect to a second essay. They were also found guilty of academic misconduct with respect to the second essay by resubmitting an earlier, not-plagiarized version of the essay in the hope that they wouldn't be caught. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student had committed a prior offence and ought to have been aware of the consequences – recognizing there would be more serious consequences for a subsequent offence; the Student paid hundreds of dollars to obtain unauthorized assistance for the first essay; the Student intended at the outset to commit the offence; the Student did not accidentally submit the second plagiarized essay; the level of intentionality and deception applied to the offence, both in its commission and the cover-up, go both to the seriousness of the offence and its impact on the University; the Student attempted to hide the second offence when the first was discovered; there is evidence of both intentional misconduct and repeated engagement in misconduct over a prolonged period, reflecting poorly on the Student's character; there were no mitigating or extenuating circumstances in this case; the expression of remorse in the form of an admission with respect to one of the offences is undermined by the Student's insistence that there was no second offence; this type of offence poses a grave threat to the integrity of the University's processes for evaluating students, is profoundly unfair to other students, and jeopardizes the University's reputation; and the sanction is consistent with prior decisions of this Tribunal.

POSSESSED AN UNAUTHORIZED AID IN TWO FINAL EXAMS

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 courses; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student plead guilty to possessing an unauthorized aid (a smart phone) in two final exams and agreed to the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and imposing

the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student had previously been suspended for four years for prior offences; apart from the Student's cooperation in the process, the evidence relating to the Student's character supports a significant suspension; the fact that the Student violated the standards of conduct expected of students at what must have been one the very first exams the Student had to take after the Student's four-year suspension does not speak well of the Student's character; neither does the Student's failure to comply with an undertaking to successfully complete six academic writing workshops within eight months of registration following their suspension; there is a high likelihood of the Student repeating their conduct, as not only did they commit an offence immediately after their suspension ended, but they also engaged in the same improper conduct the same day that they were caught; the Student carried out a planned and deliberate scheme to cheat on the exams; there were no extenuating circumstances; the detriment to the University was significant and a serious sanction was needed to deter others from this type of conduct; and the decision is consistent with similar cases where expulsion was recommended.

POSSESSED UNAUTHORIZED AIDS IN A FINAL EXAM

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

The Student plead guilty to possessing an unauthorized aid during a final exam and agreed to the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and in imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student's admission and cooperation speak favourably about their character and provided the Panel with extenuating circumstances regarding the offence; the misconduct at issue fundamentally undermines the academic integrity of the University and must be sanctioned severely to deter others; similar cases show that the Tribunal is taking an appropriately strict stand against spyware cases; and but for the joint submission on penalty, the Panel would likely have recommended expulsion.

FORGED A MEDICAL NOTE TO SUPPORT A PETITION

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

The Student plead guilty to forging a medical note in support of a petition for a late application of CR/NCR for a course and agreed to the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the joint submission is comparable to the penalties imposed in similar cases; when students take advantage of the system by submitting fraudulent claims, this breeds cynicism and distrust and is detrimental to the entire system of medical accommodations; this was not

a momentary lapse in judgment on the part of the Student; it was a deliberate and intentional forgery; the fact that the Student did not purchase the forged note is not a mitigating factor, it is merely the absence of an additional aggravating factor; there is a significant risk of repetition of the offence as it was the Student's fourth academic offence; the Student learned from this offence, is remorseful and has taken steps to ensure that the offending behaviour is not repeated; and the joint submission in this case is neither contrary to the public interest, nor would it bring the administration of justice into disrepute.

PURCHASED AN ESSAY

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 plead guilty to plagiarism in purchasing an essay for \$200 and agreed to the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the commercial nature of this offence is concerning and they were particularly troubled by the fact that the Student had a prior offence for unauthorized aid; a joint submission on penalty should not be lightly disregarded and there are precedents for the sanctions proposed; the Student cooperated with the process and their acceptance of responsibility was sincere; and the Student had completed all of their program requirements and will have to wait before graduating from their program.

FORGED MEDICAL NOTES TO SUPPORT A PETITION

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 plead guilty to forging three medical notes to support a petition to defer an exam and agreed to the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the joint submission in the case is reasonable; the offence was serious, however, there were also mitigating factors to consider, including the Student's cooperation; entering into the agreed statement of facts and joint submission on penalty shows insight and remorse; and the case is in the range of similar cases.

POSSESSED AN UNAUTHORIZED AID IN A FINAL EXAM

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 was found guilty of possessing an unauthorized aid during a final exam. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student had committed two prior offences; the timing of the prior offences is concerning, as they had been warned about academic integrity and the consequences of violations of the Code; the likelihood of the Student committing a further offence is serious; the prior offences also suggest that the Student has no demonstrated insight into the nature of their actions and that they have not taken responsibility for the serious violations of the Code; the Student had to undertake deliberate planning and subterfuge to bring the devices into the exam; the offence 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; the penalty must act as a general deterrent against the surreptitious behaviour the Student engaged in; there were no mitigating factors in this case; the apology the Student proffered was not earnest, as they had offered a similar apology in respect of one of the prior offences they committed only two months before the instant offence; and the sanction is consistent with other similar cases.

FORGED MEDICAL NOTES TO SUPPORT A PETITION

Suspension of two years, eight months; notation on the Student's transcript for three years, eight months; grades of zero in the courses; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student was found guilty of forging two medical notes in support of petitions to defer assessments in two courses. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the range of suspension for this type of case is two to four years, with expulsion reserved for the most serious cases; the Student was young and in their first term at the University; they also appeared to appreciate the gravity of the circumstances when they attended the Dean's Designate meeting; the fact that the Student submitted the same forged document on two separate occasions was considered an aggravating factor; forgery of medical notes undermines the integrity that the broader community puts in the University, including the medical community; there was no evidence of mitigating extenuating circumstances; where students submit false documentation, they undermine the trust that the University must place in its students, and they jeopardize the confidence that the broader community puts on a degree conferred by the University; the use of falsified or forged documents constitutes a breach of trust, and the prevalence of this conduct is concerning; and the sanction falls within the range of similar cases.

POSSESSED AN UNAUTHORIZED AID IN A FINAL EXAM

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 plead guilty to possessing an unauthorized aid during a final exam, specifically a cellphone. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: it was the Student's first offence, which weighs against an increased likelihood the Student will re-offend and suggests that the conduct was out of character; obtaining unauthorized assistance is an offence that is on the most serious end of the spectrum as it breaches the trust relationship with students; offences of this kind strike at the heart of the University's core values of honesty and integrity; the penalty must act as a general deterrent; and no extenuating circumstances were established.

FORGED LETTER OF ENROLLMENT TO PROVIDE TO HOUSING PROVIDERS

Suspension of almost 11 months; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student was found guilty of forging the dates on their previous letter of enrollment to assist in obtaining housing. After being found guilty, the Student agreed with the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the agreed upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the student sought no academic advantage from their act of dishonesty, which was done in desperation for a lack of housing; this was an obvious case of extenuating circumstances; the penalty was neither unreasonable nor unconscionable; and while forgeries usually result in much longer suspensions and transcript notations, the extenuating circumstances make the penalty proposed reasonable in the unusual circumstances of this case.

FORGED MEDICAL NOTES TO SUPPORT PETITIONS

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 plead guilty to forging two medical notes to support petitions to have a grade reassessed and then to withdraw from the course. They also agreed to the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the offences were serious; the fabrication of medical documents undermines the University's process of medical accommodation; while it was a first offence, the Student's behaviour established a pattern of dishonesty by purchasing more than one falsified medical note; they accepted responsibility for their conduct, fully cooperated with the University and attended the hearing; they showed insight and remorse and made a direct apology to the University during the hearing; and the proposed sanction was reasonable, not unconscionable and within the accepted range of similar cases.