

**GOVERNING COUNCIL JUDICIAL BOARD  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

**IN THE MATTER OF** charges of academic misconduct filed on October 2, 2025,

**AND IN THE MATTER OF** the *University of Toronto Act, 1947*, S.O. 1947, c. 112, as am.

**AND IN THE MATTER OF** the *University of Toronto Act, 1971*, S.O. 1971, c. 56 as amended  
S.O. 1978, c. 88

**B E T W E E N:**

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

**- AND -**

M [REDACTED] H [REDACTED]

**REASONS FOR DECISION**

**Hearing Date:** January 9, 2026, via Zoom

**Members of the Judicial Board:**

Roslyn M. Tsao, Associate Senior Chair  
Professor Aarthi Ashok, Teaching Staff Member  
Susan Froom, Student Member

**Appearances:**

Tina Lie, Counsel for the University, Paliare Roland Rosenberg Rothstein LLP

**Hearing Secretary:**

Karen Bellinger, Associate Director, Office of Appeals, Discipline and Faculty Grievances

**In Attendance:**

M [REDACTED] H [REDACTED]

## **Charges and Appearances**

1. This Judicial Board was duly established by the Governing Council of the University of Toronto (the "University") on December 1, 2025 to consider charges brought against M██████ H██████ (the "Graduate") on October 2, 2025.
2. The matter was heard on January 9, 2026, to consider the following charges laid under section 48(c) of the *University of Toronto Act, 1947* (the "Act") against the Graduate:
  - (a) On or about September 25, 2024, they were guilty of infamous conduct,
  - (b) On or around September 25, 2024, they were guilty of disgraceful conduct, and
  - (c) On or around September 25, 2024, they were guilty of conduct unbecoming a graduate of the University of Toronto,  
  
in that they forged or in any way altered an academic record, and/or uttered, circulated or made use of such forged, altered or falsified record, and/or attempted to utter, circulate or make use of such forged, altered or falsified record (hereinafter "Altered Transcript"<sup>1</sup>).
3. The University and the Graduate submitted an Agreed Statement of Facts dated December 17, 2025 ("ASF") and attached documents, wherein the Graduate pleaded guilty to all charges and admitted all particulars stated therein.
4. At the hearing, the Graduate confirmed that they had the opportunity to seek legal advice before signing the ASF.

## **Facts as Admitted in the ASF**

5. The Graduate first registered in the Faculty of Arts and Science at the University of Toronto in Fall 2015 and graduated from the University of Toronto with an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in June 2019. The Graduate graduated with majors in political science and religion.

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<sup>1</sup> A document purporting to be a Transcript of Consolidated Academic Record from the University of Toronto dated September 25, 2024

6. In mid-September 2024, the Graduate applied to a job at a potential employer ("Employer"). A background check was required and completed.
7. The Graduate was subsequently advised by the Employer that the position required a Masters of Business Administration degree (MBA). The Graduate was asked to complete the background check again.
8. On September 25, 2024, the Graduate submitted an online request for a transcript through Parchment (where an individual who no longer has access to ACORN may order transcripts from the University Registrar's Office) and the Graduate received an electronic copy of their Official Transcript as of September 25, 2024.
9. The Graduate was aware that they had not been conferred with an MBA from the University of Toronto.
10. The Graduate altered the Official Transcript by adding and changing various details on the face of the document relating to Registration History, Graduation Summary and Majors on the Official Transcript to make it appear that the transcript was from the Rotman School of Management and an MBA had been conferred in June 2022 with majors in Finance and Operations Management (the Altered Transcript). The Graduate blacked out the rest of the information on the first page of the Official Transcript relating to courses, grades and GPAs.
11. The Graduate submitted the Altered Transcript to the Employer.
12. The Employer requested verification of the Altered Transcript from the University in late September 2024. A Service Coordinator at the Office of the University Registrar, who processed the request, advised that the Altered Transcript did not match the official records.
13. The matter was subsequently forwarded to Student Academic Integrity ("SAI") at the Faculty of Arts and Science.

14. On October 8 and 17, and November 18, 2024, SAI sent emails to the Graduate at the Graduate's University of Toronto email account when they were a student to advise of the allegation of academic misconduct and to schedule a meeting with the Dean's Designate.
15. On December 2, 2024, SAI sent a further email to the Graduate, advising that the case was being forwarded to the Vice-Provost with the recommendation that charges be laid.
16. The Graduate did not have access to their former University email account and, therefore, did not respond to any of the emails from SAI.
17. On May 8, 2025, the Graduate tried to order another transcript online through Parchment. However, the request was cancelled due to a hold on the Graduate's account. That day, the Graduate sent an email to SAI from their active email account to inquire about the reason for the hold on their transcript.
18. SAI was then able to communicate with the Graduate by email. On May 14, 2025, SAI advised the Graduate that the hold on the Graduate's account was due to an allegation of misconduct.
19. The Graduate admitted that they knowingly forged, altered or falsified the Official Transcript to produce the Altered Transcript, and submitted the Altered Transcript to the Employer for the purposes of a job application.
20. The Graduate admitted that their conduct was infamous, disgraceful, and conduct unbecoming a graduate, contrary to s. 48(c) of the *University of Toronto Act, 1947*.
21. The Graduate acknowledged that they signed the ASF freely and voluntarily, knowing of the potential consequences, had the opportunity to seek the advice of counsel and waived their right to do so.

## **Finding**

22. Based on the ASF and review of the original and Altered Transcripts and the communications between the Graduate and the Employer, the Panel accepts the plea of the

Graduate and makes a finding that the Graduate is guilty of "conduct unbecoming a graduate of the University of Toronto" as:

- (a) the conduct displayed a blatant disregard about the damage caused by academic dishonesty to the value of the University as an institution and to the value of other graduates; and
  - (b) the conduct was intended to dupe a third party (Employer) using the credentials of the University of Toronto.
23. We were directed to the recent decision in *University of Toronto and Y.G.* (Case No. JB 12, December 15, 2025) by the University with regard to the "infamous", "disgraceful" and/or "conduct unbecoming" distinction in the express charges available under the Act. As in *Y.G.*, the University did not make specific submissions as to whether one or more of the express charges was more or less applicable to the facts herein. The University was content to a finding under any or all of the sections.
24. We agree with the approach in the *Y.G.* decision that the panel should isolate their findings to the particular express charges (i.e., infamous, disgraceful or conduct unbecoming or any combination) regardless of whether the University is content to any finding.
25. We do not make a finding of guilt for the Graduate on the other two charges.

### **Penalty**

26. The Graduate affirmed an Affidavit on December 19, 2025 for consideration and the University and Graduate submitted a Joint Submission on Penalty ("JSP"), in support of the following penalty:
- (a) The Bachelor of Arts degree conferred by the University of Toronto on the Graduate (2019) be suspended for five years from the date of the Order;
  - (b) In the event that the Graduate is able to locate their degree certificate evidencing the Bachelor of Arts degree conferred by the University of Toronto (the “**Degree**”

**Certificate**”), the Graduate be required and directed to surrender the Degree Certificate for the period of the suspension; and

- (c) The fact that the University of Toronto has suspended for five years the Bachelor of Arts degree it conferred on the Respondent be recorded on the Graduate's academic record and transcript for seven years from the date of the Order.
27. Although not expressly included in the JSP, the University further requested and the Graduate consented to the reporting to the Provost for publication of a notice of this decision of the Judicial Board and the sanctions imposed, with the name of the graduate withheld.
28. Although this matter was presented to the Panel by way JSP, we are still required to consider the *University of Toronto and Mr. C* factors (Case No.: 1976/77-3, November 5, 1976), to support our decision on penalty: character of the student, likelihood of repetition of the offence, nature of the offence committed, existence of extenuating circumstances, detriment to the university, and general need for deterrence.
29. The following facts set out in the Graduate's Affidavit were not contested;
- (a) Following graduation in 2019, in March 2023, the Graduate was hospitalized due to two seizures and was later diagnosed with epilepsy and prescribed medication, which had side effects that affected their mental health.
  - (b) In June 2023, the Graduate's driver's licence was suspended because of the seizure condition and in July 2023, the Graduate lost their employment where they had been since December 2021.
  - (c) From July 2023 to April 2024, the Graduate applied to dozens of positions without success and the inability to drive limited their options to those accessible by public transportation.

- (d) In May 2024, the Graduate was notified by Service Canada that they did not qualify for special or regular Employment Insurance benefits because of inadequate number of hours of insurable employment.
  - (e) In June 2024, the Graduate was able to secure new employment, but their position was terminated suddenly three (3) months later on September 3, 2024.
  - (f) The Graduate applied for new employment and one of the positions was with the Employer. The Employer advised that an MBA was required.
  - (g) The Graduate acknowledges that they were desperate given the past lengthy period of unemployment.
  - (h) The Graduate acknowledges altering their transcript as described above and submitting it to the Employer.
  - (i) The Graduate expresses that they are very sorry for what they did and that they understand the importance of maintaining the integrity of the University of Toronto's official records and understand the seriousness of their conduct.
30. With regard to the Graduate's conduct, the principal *Mr. C* factors to consider are the *nature (seriousness) of the offence, specific and general deterrence and detriment to the university.*
31. The seriousness of the offence has been discussed above in the finding of the Graduate's conduct as unbecoming. In particular, the ability by third parties, like employers and other academic institutions, to rely upon transcripts is so important that the intentional alteration of a transcript for personal gain is a very serious offence for a graduate.
32. The University confirms that the Graduate was cooperative with their guilty plea and the process. The University further submits that the likelihood of repetition is very low given that the Graduate has no prior academic disciplinary record.

33. The Panel is sympathetic to the Graduate's health and challenges in maintaining employment since graduation. However, the falsifying of the Altered Transcript required deliberation and intent and was not a mere lapse in judgment. The Graduate has made an error in judgment and will face a serious sanction for same. The Graduate is presently working, and it is the hope that they will learn a lesson from this process and maintain a standard of integrity going forward.
34. We are aware that there is a very high threshold for departing from a joint submission on penalty requiring the Panel to find that the acceptance of same would be contrary to the public interest and bring the administration of justice into disrepute.
35. The Panel agrees that the penalty being sought is appropriate for the conduct involved. The Panel, therefore, accepts and orders the sanctions as set out in the JSP.
36. An Order was signed after the hearing by the Panel in accordance with above finding of "conduct unbecoming a graduate of the University" and the sanctions as set out in the JSP.
37. We thank counsel and the Graduate for the efficiency of the Hearing.

Dated at Toronto, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026

Original signed by:

Roslyn Tsao, Associate Senior Chair  
On behalf of the Panel