



FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO:	Academic Board
SPONSOR: CONTACT INFO:	Mr. Christopher Lang, Director, Office of Appeals, Discipline and Faculty Grievances, (416) 946-7663, christopher.lang@utoronto.ca
PRESENTER: CONTACT INFO:	See Sponsor
DATE:	May 21, 2026 for May 28, 2026
AGENDA ITEM:	13c

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

University Tribunal, Information Reports, Fall, 2025.

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The University Tribunal hears cases of academic discipline under the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters, 2025* (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 28, 2026)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The last semi-annual report came to the Academic Board on November 13, 2025.

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, 2025* (Spring 2026)

FORGED MULTIPLE DOCUMENTS IN ORDER TO DEFER EXAMS

Suspension of three years; notation on the Student's transcript for almost four 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 ("VOI") along with statements in their petitions to defer exams in three courses. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted: the sanction was within the range of suspensions that had been imposed in similar cases; the admissions of guilt and decision to enter into the Agreed Statement of Facts ("ASF") were positive factors in assessing the Student's character; while the Student had no prior misconduct, they engaged in a pattern of misconduct with concurrent offences; the repeated nature of the Student's misconduct increases the likelihood that the Student will re-offend and weighs negatively against their character; the Student appeared to demonstrate insight into their actions and showed remorse when they were confronted with their behaviour; the offences were serious and undermine the University's process of medical accommodation, causing detriment to the University community; the Student engaged in an abuse of two doctors' names and credentials; the behaviour also discloses a pattern of dishonest conduct which involved planning and deliberation and a commercial element; and because it is difficult for the University to detect a false VOI, it is important that the sanction be severe enough to act as a general deterrence against this unacceptable behaviour.

TWICE SUBMITTED A FORGED TRANSCRIPT TO ANOTHER ACADEMIC INSTITUTION

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

The Student was found guilty of submitting a forged transcript to another academic institution on two occasions. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted: the typical penalty for a forged transcript is a recommendation of expulsion, absent mitigating factors or agreement between the parties regarding sanction; forgeries strike at the heart of academic integrity; to maintain the University's outstanding international reputation, other institutions must know that its transcripts are reliable; students who submit false transcripts undermine that reliability; the Student had committed two prior academic offences, which is relevant to the likelihood of repetition; since the Student did not attend the hearing, there were no mitigating factors; and the sanction is consistent with prior decisions of this Tribunal.

SUBMITTED A FORGED TRANSCRIPT TO ANOTHER ACADEMIC INSTITUTION

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

The Student was found guilty of submitting a forged transcript to another academic institution. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted: the Student had six prior academic offences; the four latest offences were addressed collectively, and the Student received a suspension of five years; forgery is regarded as a most-serious academic offence that undermines the integrity of the University in that it misrepresents a student's academic accomplishments; preventing this type of offence is critical to protecting the reputation of the University; a recommendation of expulsion is commonly imposed for the offence of forgery other than in exceptional circumstances; many cases where expulsion was ordered for forgery were comparatively less serious than the present case; the Student had been warned multiple times about the seriousness of this type of conduct but appeared to be unrepentant and to have learned nothing from prior sanctions; there were no mitigating factors or extenuating circumstances presented; and there is a high likelihood of repetition if the Student is allowed to remain a part of the University.

POSSESSED AN UNAUTHORIZED AID 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 plead guilty to using a button camera and earpieces to obtain answers to an exam and agreed with the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the starting point for cases in which students use spyware is a recommendation for expulsion; using spyware to cheat is a technologically updated and better-organized method of having someone personate you in an exam; students need to know they will face harsh penalties if they use spyware to cheat; the Student had no prior record of academic misconduct; they immediately admitted guilt, gave invigilators access to the spyware and their communications with the third party who provided it; they cooperated with the University by agreeing to the facts and penalties; the sanction appropriately recognizes the Student's early admission of misconduct, apology, and cooperation; and the sanction is consistent with the sanctions imposed in similar cases.

POSSESSED AN UNAUTHORIZED AID 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 was found guilty of unauthorized aid for having written notes on their palm during an exam. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: significant time and resources were expended to prepare for the hearing; as the Student did not attend the hearing, the Panel had no evidence of remorse or that the Student attempted to take any responsibility for their actions; they also had no evidence of any mitigating circumstances; the Student tried to conceal the offence, was not honest with the invigilators, and tried to deceive them about what the notes were and what they were doing; the offence is a threat to the integrity of the University's processes for

evaluating students, is unfair to other students, and jeopardizes the University's reputation; the penalty should be severe enough to deter others from considering breaching the prohibition on using unauthorized aids in a final exam; and the sanction is consistent with sanctions imposed in similar cases.

NOTE: THE STUDENT APPEALED THE SANCTION – APPEAL DISMISSED AS ABANDONED

FORGED MULTIPLE DOCUMENTS TO GAIN LATE WITHDRAWAL FROM A COURSE AND PLAGIARISED A PAPER PROPOSAL

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 forging two VOIs and plagiarizing a paper proposal. They agreed with the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student had been sanctioned for two prior offences; the sanctions were within the range of reasonable outcomes in light of similar cases; there were multiple aggravating factors in this case, including that the Student sought to take advantage of the University's system for medical accommodation through a cynical and calculated scheme; they had prior offences; when the Student was close to graduation, they sought to improve their transcript through fraudulent means; the dishonesty was deliberate and involved multiple steps and considerable effort; and the consequences are serious and should deter not only the Student, but also other students who consider enhancing their transcript through dishonesty.

HAD ANOTHER STUDENT PERSONATE THEM IN A MIDTERM

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 write a midterm exam for them and agreed with the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student's decision to enter into the ASF at an early stage in the process saved the University time and expense and demonstrates that they have taken responsibility for their actions; this was the Student's first offence, which weighs against a likelihood they will reoffend; it suggests that the conduct was out of character; the Student was only 0.5 credits from graduating, also making it less likely they will re-offend; impersonation is considered one of the most egregious offences; paying to obtain unauthorized assistance is recognized as an aggravating factor as it suggests pre-meditation by the student and arguably a greater degree of sophistication and coordination for the offence; where a student is successful in completing the offence of personation then the University also becomes an unwitting party to misleading others about the student's credits; impersonation is very hard to detect; given the seriousness of the offence, it is important to send a strong message that this type of misconduct cannot be tolerated; while the Student raised some personal hardships they were experiencing at the

time of the midterm, there was no evidence provided to support the existence or relevance of these hardships; and the sanction is within the range of suspensions that have been imposed in similar cases.

PLAGIARISM AND UNAUTHORIZED AID ON AN ASSIGNMENT, FORGED A DOCUMENT TO SUPPORT A PETITION TO REWRITE AN EXAM

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

The Student was found guilty of plagiarism and unauthorized aid in connection to a coding assignment in one class. They were also found guilty of forging a VOI to support their petition to rewrite a final exam. In finding the student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: there were no mitigating factors and, though the student engaged at various points in the process, they did not take responsibility; there was a likelihood the Student would reoffend, given that they were on notice regarding the offences in the first course when they submitted the forged document; there was no evidence of any extenuating circumstances; forging a document is deliberate, premeditated and egregious; plagiarism risks damaging the reputation of the University; both offences must attract serious consequences to ensure deterrence; and the sanction was consistent with previous cases.

POSSESSED AN UNAUTHORIZED AID DURING AN 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 using a button camera to send pictures of an exam to a cheating service and agreed with the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: 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 that undermines the integrity of the university and must be deterred; the presence of an ASF and a Joint Submission on Penalty ("JSP") were significant mitigating factors, along with the Student's early admission of guilt and acceptance of responsibility; the fact that the Student sought to profit from their dishonest actions was concerning but the Student provided an undertaking not to re-apply to the University, so the range of sanctions established in other spy technology cases remained appropriate; and the agreed-upon sanctions would not be contrary to the public interest nor would they bring the administration of justice into disrepute.

PLAGIARISED PAPERS IN THREE COURSES

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

The Student was found guilty of three counts of plagiarism. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted: the Student plagiarized assignments in three

different courses but did plead guilty to each of those offences; they stopped responding to the disciplinary process, so the Panel had no further insight into their remorse or any evidence of extenuating circumstances surrounding the commission of the offences; the chronology of offences, in which the Student was aware of the University's concern with their conduct and nonetheless committed another offence, demonstrates a basis for concern about the likelihood of repetition; plagiarism is a serious offence that occasions considerable detriment to the University; plagiarism allows students to obtain credit for work that is not their own and results in gross unfairness to students who produce their own work; and the sanction was consistent with sanctions imposed in similar cases.

OBTAINED UNAUTHORIZED AID 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 plead guilty to obtaining answers to an exam from a third party through spyware. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student engaged in a premeditated act of serious dishonesty and compounded it by denying the allegations at the Dean's Designate meeting; the Student later was very cooperative with the University and expressed deep remorse; the Student had neither a prior nor concurrent charge for other misconduct; given the Student's remorse, the likelihood of repetition was small; the amount of premeditation required and the presence of a commercial element was very concerning; the difficulty in detecting this kind of misconduct and the fact that the Student may have received a grade that misrepresented their level of proficiency were detrimental to the University; given the difficulty of detecting these types of misconduct, the consequences upon detection need to be severe enough to deter others from committing similar misconduct; and the sanction fell squarely within the typical range of sanctions.

PURCHASED A CODING ASSIGNMENT

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

The Student plead guilty to one count of plagiarism, admitting to purchasing a coding assignment. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted: the sanction of expulsion was consistent with similar cases; the Student admitted to the offence and cooperated in the academic discipline process; the Student had committed two prior offences, received a lenient penalty, and took advantage of the leniency; purchasing academic work is considered one of the most egregious offences as it involves intention, planning and deliberation to enter a transaction, as well as a commercial element; the act of having someone surreptitiously complete your assignment is something that is difficult to detect and undermines the fundamental principles of fairness and honesty that the University upholds; such conduct negatively impacts the University's reputation and the integrity of its academic programs; the University must send a strong

message to reinforce the importance of academic integrity and discourage future violations; and the Student's struggles were not considered as mitigating factors, given the deficiencies in the medical evidence the Student sought to rely on.

OBTAINED UNAUTHORIZED AID 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 plead guilty to participating in a scheme with other students to obtain answers to an exam from a third party through spyware and agreed with the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student had a prior offence; as the Student did not participate in the hearing there was no direct evidence of the Student's character before them or any evidence of extenuating circumstances; while the Student ultimately acknowledged their wrongdoing, they initially denied guilt; given the evidence of the prior offence, there was a real risk of reoffending, absent a significant sanction; the deliberate, premeditated reliance on unauthorized forms of assistance in an examination is a very serious offence that strikes at the heart of the University's core values of honesty and integrity; offences of this kind cannot be tolerated; serious sanctions are required to discourage others from committing similar offences; the sanctions proposed were in the range of those imposed for similar cases; and the sanctions would not be contrary to the public interest nor would they bring the administration of justice into disrepute.

OBTAINED UNAUTHORIZED AID 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 plead guilty to using spyware to obtain answers to an exam and agreed with the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student had a prior offence; as the Student did not participate in the hearing there was no direct evidence of the Student's character before them or any evidence of extenuating circumstances; while the Student ultimately acknowledged their wrongdoing, they initially denied guilt; given the evidence of the prior offence, there was a real risk of reoffending, absent a significant sanction; the deliberate, premeditated reliance on unauthorized forms of assistance in an examination is a very serious offence that strikes at the heart of the University's core values of honesty and integrity; offences of this kind cannot be tolerated; serious sanctions are required to discourage others from committing similar offences; the sanctions proposed were in the range of those imposed for similar cases; and the sanctions would not be contrary to the public interest nor would they bring the administration of justice into disrepute.

OBTAINED UNAUTHORIZED AID DURING AN 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 was found guilty of obtaining unauthorized aid in an exam, specifically it was found that they cheated off another student in the class. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student had one prior offence that was virtually identical misconduct committed only two months prior to the current offence; because the Student did not participate in the hearing, there was no mitigating information regarding the Student's character or extenuating circumstances; there was a real risk of the same offence being repeated, absent a significant sanction; such conduct threatens the integrity of the University's processes for evaluating students, is profoundly unfair to other students and jeopardizes the University's reputation; members of the public must be able to rely on the University's evaluation processes; cheating and allowing cheating to go unsanctioned is unfair to other students who abide by the rules and undermines the value of the University's degrees; and the sanction effectively achieves the goals of sanctioning and is consistent with prior cases.

HAD ANOTHER STUDENT SIGN IN FOR THEM ON ATTENDANCE SHEET FOR CLASSES THEY MISSED AND PLAGIARISED AND CONOCTED SOURCES FOR A TERM PAPER

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 having another student personate them by signing in for them on an attendance sheet when they were absent and also plead guilty to plagiarizing a term paper and concocting sources for that paper. The Student agreed with the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: it cannot be overstated how serious the offence of plagiarism is in an academic setting; plagiarism allows students to obtain credit for work that is not their own to the detriment of the University and their fellow students; it results in gross unfairness to students who produce their own work and can ultimately undermine the reputation of the University; personation is one of the most serious offences; the penalty for personation is usually a recommendation for expulsion; while this conduct was not the type that warranted expulsion, it must still attract a serious penalty because it is a calculated attempt to mislead the University; the misconduct implicates a fellow student; the sanction is consistent with that imposed for similar offences; and the agreed-upon sanctions are not truly unreasonable or unconscionable and do not bring the administration of justice into disrepute.

OBTAINED UNAUTHORIZED AID DURING TWO EXAMS

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 using spyware to obtain answers to an exam and agreed with the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student signed an undertaking to not register for courses or apply to any programs at the University; the penalty was consistent with prior decisions; there is a high threshold to reject a joint submission on penalty; the Student had a prior finding of guilt for unauthorized aid that resulted in a reprimand; the decision to admit the offence saved the University time and expense; they demonstrated remorse by apologizing and taking responsibility for their actions; their early admission of guilt demonstrated their insight into their actions such that there was a low likelihood of reoffence; using spyware is an extremely serious offence involving planning and deliberation that requires the most severe of sanctions; the detriment to the University from students obtaining unauthorized assistance in this manner and also involving a commercial element is obvious; it is important to send a strong message that this type of surreptitious behaviour will not be tolerated; and, but for the Student's undertaking and expressions of remorse, a recommendation for expulsion would have been the appropriate remedy.

USED AN UNAUTHORIZED AID DURING A TERM TEST AND AN EXAM

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

The Student plead guilty to using spyware to obtain answers to a term test and an exam and agreed with the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student made a statement accepting responsibility for their actions and expressing remorse; the Student had no prior offences and had cooperated with the University in the prosecution of other students who were involved in the cheating schemes; the Student was involved in two distinct offences and was initially dishonest in refusing to acknowledge the extent of their guilt at the first opportunity; there is some risk of the same offences being repeated absent a significant sanction; the deliberate, premeditated reliance on unauthorized assistance is a very serious offence that strikes at the heart of the University's core values of honesty and integrity; this offence has the potential to affect other students adversely by allowing cheaters to obtain grades higher than they merit by presenting the knowledge of others as their own; it harms the reputation of the University as a whole; those who commit this offence merit serious sanctions; there was no evidence of any extenuating circumstances; offences of this kind cannot be tolerated; serious sanctions are required to discourage others from committing similar offences; the Student sought to make use of sophisticated "spyware" as part of a commercial enterprise; and the sanction proposed would not be contrary to the public interest, nor would it otherwise bring the administration of justice within the University into disrepute.

OBTAINED UNAUTHORIZED AID 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 plead guilty to using spyware to obtain answers to an exam and agreed with the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student had no prior offences and had cooperated with the University in the prosecution of other students who were involved in the cheating schemes; while the Student ultimately acknowledged their wrongdoing, they were initially dishonest in refusing to acknowledge their guilt at the first opportunity; there is some risk of the same offences being repeated absent a significant sanction; the deliberate, premeditated reliance on unauthorized assistance is a very serious offence that strikes at the heart of the University's core values of honesty and integrity; this offence has the potential to affect other students adversely by allowing cheaters to obtain grades higher than they merit by presenting the knowledge of others as their own; it harms the reputation of the University as a whole; those who commit this offence merit serious sanctions; there was no evidence of any extenuating circumstances; offences of this kind cannot be tolerated; serious sanctions are required to discourage others from committing similar offences; the Student sought to make use of sophisticated "spyware" as part of a commercial enterprise; and the sanction proposed would not be contrary to the public interest, nor would it otherwise bring the administration of justice within the University into disrepute.

OBTAINED UNAUTHORIZED AID DURING TWO EXAMS AND A TERM TEST

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 plead guilty to using spyware to obtain answers to an exam and a term test in one course and a final exam in a second course and they also agreed with the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student signed an undertaking to not register for courses or apply to any programs at the University; the Student had one prior offence and therefore had committed a total of four separate offences; while the Student ultimately acknowledged their wrongdoing, they were initially dishonest in refusing to acknowledge their guilt at the first opportunity; given the evidence of the multiple offences there is considerable risk of the same offences being repeated absent a significant sanction; the deliberate, premeditated reliance on unauthorized assistance is a very serious offence that strikes at the heart of the University's core values of honesty and integrity; this offence has the potential to affect other students adversely by allowing cheaters to obtain grades higher than they merit by presenting the knowledge of others as their own; it harms the reputation of the University as a whole; those who commit this offence merit serious sanctions; there was no evidence of any extenuating circumstances; offences of this kind cannot be tolerated; serious sanctions are required to discourage others from committing similar offences; the Student sought to make use of sophisticated "spyware" as part of a

commercial enterprise; and the sanction proposed would not be contrary to the public interest, nor would it otherwise bring the administration of justice within the University into disrepute.

POSSESSED UNAUTHORIZED AID DURING 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; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student was found guilty of using spyware to obtain answers to an exam. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the misconduct was of an extremely serious nature; using spy technology to cheat on a final exam is amongst the most serious academic offences that a student can commit; the Panel had no mitigating evidence regarding the Student's character or any extenuating circumstances, as the Student failed to participate in the hearing; there was no evidence that would support a reduction in penalty from a recommendation for expulsion; these offences require premeditation and planning both to purchase the devices and to secure the services of a commercial enterprise whose sole purpose is to assist students to cheat; these offences require that a strong message of deterrence be sent to discourage others from engaging these services; obtaining real-time assistance using a hidden camera and earpieces is taking unauthorized assistance 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; spy technology decisions establish that the starting point for these cases is a recommendation for expulsion; and the sanction is consistent with prior decisions of this Tribunal.

CHANGED GRADES FOR 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; publication of the decision with the Student's name withheld

The Student was found guilty of forgery for changing their grades for two assignments using a teaching assistant's log-in information to access Quercus. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: forgery or falsification of academic records is one of the most serious academic offences, undermining the integrity and mission of the University; this type of misconduct deserves strong denunciation to protect the credibility, integrity, and reputation of academic institutions and those who rely on them; forgeries are often difficult to detect; if they remain undetected, students may obtain benefits that they do not deserve, deprive other more deserving students of that benefit, tarnish the reputation of the University, and by extension, its students, alumni, and faculty; once discovered, forgery requires a strong deterrent; forgery rarely occurs through a student's inadvertence or negligence and is usually the product of planning and knowing

participation rather than a moment of weakness or poor judgment; where a student has forged an academic record, given the seriousness of the offence, a recommendation for expulsion is commonly imposed unless there are significant mitigating factors, a joint recommendation on penalty, or both; expulsion sometimes has not been recommended where the Student has shown remorse by admitting the offence, entering a no-contest plea, or agreeing to a joint statement on penalty; none of these factors were present in this case; there was an element of planning and deliberation to the Student's offences; they did not arise from a momentary lapse in judgment or due to negligence; the premeditated and deliberate nature of the offences make them particularly egregious; this was the Student's first offence; however, a recommendation of an expulsion is often an appropriate penalty even for first offenders; while these offences occurred near the end of the Student's program, they committed the same offence twice, suggesting that specific deterrence is a concern; the Panel knew very little about the circumstances surrounding the commission of the offences, beyond the fact that prior to committing the offences the Student did exceptionally well in their program; the Panel had no other information about any extenuating mitigating circumstances; and the sanction of expulsion was consistent with similar cases.

PURCHASED TWO ESSAYS

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

The Student plead guilty to two charges of plagiarism by submitting purchased work on three separate occasions. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: even while the Student seemed to take responsibility, they sought to both excuse themselves and discount the seriousness of the offence; the Student's actions were not impulsive; they submitted purchased work on three separate occasions and made a conscious choice each time to submit assignments that they paid someone else to write; the Student's actions were planned to obtain an advantage; the fact they tried to discount this at the hearing did not reflect well on their character; the risk of repetition of the offence is high as the Student submitted the second assignment after they had met with the Chair regarding the first essays; there were no real mitigating or aggravating factors in the case; purchased essays are as serious an offence as can be committed at the University level; in purchasing an essay, the Student is defying the standard of honesty and trust upon which the University does and must demand of its students; the detriment to the University and its students is significant; the Student is seeking an unfair advantage over their classmates who choose not to cheat; this offence requires strong general deterrence; any student can easily purchase an assignment or essay through any number of services, and it is extremely difficult to detect; in this case, \$200 on WeChat bought the Student a custom essay; the Student would have escaped detection if their language skills had been stronger and the deception had not therefore subsequently become apparent; it

is imperative that the University community understand that this type of offence attracts significant penalties; in the absence of any factors supporting a lighter sentence, expulsion is the presumption for purchased work and there no such factors in this case; and the sanction of expulsion was consistent with similar cases.

POSSESSED UNAUTHORIZED AIDS DURING AN EXAM AND A TERM TEST AND SUBMITTED FALSE VOI FORMS

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 plead guilty to possessing a smartwatch in a term test, using spyware to obtain answers to an exam, and to submitting falsified VOIs to defer two exams. 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 had no prior discipline history, though the multiple offences were an aggravating circumstance, especially as the Student had been warned after the first offence; the Student cooperated after being confronted about the allegations; the offences required premeditated planning and organization; the Student undertook to immediately withdraw from the University and not to register for any further courses; the undertaking effectively achieves the goal of specific deterrence; the integrity of the University is under attack by sophisticated and organized cheating services; the use of unauthorized aids undermines the integrity of the University and is prejudicial to other students who do not engage in such academic dishonesty; the requested sanction is the minimum sanction in the given circumstances; and there is a very high threshold for departing from a joint submission on penalty.

POSSESSED UNAUTHORIZED AIDS DURING A TEST

Suspension of five years; 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 plead guilty to using spyware to obtain answers to a term test and agreed with the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student had committed one prior offence; the offence in question represents an extremely serious breach of academic integrity; it has been held to be among the worst things that a student could do; it is deserving of a harsh sanction; the proposed sanction falls squarely within the range of appropriate sanctions for cases of contract cheating and the use of spyware; and there was no reason to reject the joint submission.

OBTAINED UNAUTHORIZED AID DURING TWO EXAMS

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 plead guilty to using spyware to obtain answers to an exam and a term test and agreed with the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student had not committed any prior offences; the Student agreed to cooperate with the University in the prosecution of other students who were involved in the cheating scheme; the Student committed their second offence less than two months after having admitted to the first offence; while the Student ultimately acknowledged their wrongdoing, they were initially dishonest in refusing to acknowledge their guilt at the first opportunity; given the evidence of the multiple offences and the fact that the second offence followed the discovery of the first offence, there is considerable risk of the same offences being repeated absent a significant sanction; the deliberate, premeditated reliance on unauthorized assistance is a very serious offence that strikes at the heart of the University's core values of honesty and integrity; this offence has the potential to affect other students adversely by allowing cheaters to obtain grades higher than they merit by presenting the knowledge of others as their own; it harms the reputation of the University as a whole; those who commit this offence merit serious sanctions; there was no evidence of any extenuating circumstances; offences of this kind cannot be tolerated; serious sanctions are required to discourage others from committing similar offences; the Student sought to make use of hard-to-detect technology as part of, at least in the case of one course, a commercial cheating enterprise; and the sanction proposed would not be contrary to the public interest, nor would it otherwise bring the administration of justice within the University into disrepute.

OBTAINED UNAUTHORIZED AID DURING TWO EXAMS AND A TERM TEST

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 plead guilty to using spyware to obtain answers to an exam and a term test in one course and a final exam in a second course and agreed with the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student had no prior offences; the Student agreed to cooperate with the University in the prosecution of other students who were involved in the cheating scheme; while the Student ultimately acknowledged their wrongdoing, they were initially dishonest in refusing to acknowledge their guilt at the first opportunity; given the evidence of the multiple offences there is considerable risk of the same offences being repeated absent a significant sanction; the deliberate, premeditated reliance on unauthorized assistance is a very serious offence that strikes at the heart of the University's core values of honesty and integrity; this offence has the potential to affect other students adversely by allowing cheaters to obtain grades higher than they merit by presenting the knowledge of others as their own; it harms the reputation of the University as a whole; those who commit this offence merit serious sanctions; there was no evidence of any extenuating circumstances; offences of this kind cannot be tolerated; serious sanctions are required to discourage others from committing similar offences; the Student sought to make use of sophisticated "spyware" as part of a commercial enterprise; and the sanction proposed

would not be contrary to the public interest, nor would it otherwise bring the administration of justice within the University into disrepute.

USED FORGED DOCUMENTS TO DEFER EXAMS

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

The Student was found guilty of submitting a falsified medical certificate in support of three petitions to defer final exams in three classes. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted: by using a false and forged medical certificate, the Student 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 use falsified documents; forgery is a serious form of academic misconduct; the Student committed the offences deliberately, and not through carelessness; and although the Student had no prior offences, they committed three offences in a short period of time and both the seriousness of the offences and the need for deterrence were particularly compelling in this case.

NOTE: THE STUDENT APPEALED THE SANCTION – APPEAL DISMISSED

The Student appealed the penalty and sought to reduce the sanction to a suspension. In upholding the Trial Division's decision, the Discipline Appeals Board noted the following: the Student did not attend the appeal, though they had participated in the scheduling of the hearing date; the Student did not identify any reversible error of fact or law in their Notice of Appeal or factum, nor was there any error evident from the Board's review of the Tribunal's decision; the Tribunal enumerated the key, relevant factors on sanction, and gave cogent reasons considering those factors and their impact on the Tribunal's Order; the Tribunal also reviewed orders from previous similar cases and considered the established range for the suspension; the Board was satisfied the Tribunal committed no error of law or fact to justify the Board's intervention; the Board had no admissible evidence of extenuating circumstances to consider; even if the Board had found a reversible error, the Board was not satisfied that a variation of the length of the suspension was warranted; and the length of suspension was reasonable in all the circumstances.

PURCHASED A CODING 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 a coding assignment and agreed with the proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: purchasing work and submitting it as one's own is among the most serious of academic offences. the Student has cooperated and they admitted the offence; purchasing a paper and knowingly representing the work as your own is one of the most egregious offences because of the amount of planning and deliberation involved in

purchasing work; the sanction is in keeping with prior case law; the Student took full accountability and explained there were extenuating circumstances; they did not offer the circumstances as an explanation, but as context for the circumstances that led to the offence; the Student committed this offence after they had been sanctioned for another offence which weighs against their character; but for the joint submission on penalty and early admission of guilt, the Panel would likely be recommending expulsion; this misconduct jeopardizes the integrity of the University, and the penalty must serve as deterrence; and the sanction proposed was the appropriate penalty.

CONCOCTED SOURCES

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 concocting sources in an essay. In finding the Student guilty and imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted: the proposed sanction was at the low end of the spectrum; the Student had no prior discipline history; there was no evidence of mitigating factors that may have caused the Student to engage in this behaviour; even if there had been mitigating factors presented, the proposed penalty would likely still have been within the range of reasonable penalties; and the proposed sanction was appropriate in the circumstances.