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OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

TO: Academic Board

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AGENDA ITEM: 14(a)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Provost's Annual Report on Cases of Academic Discipline 2006-07

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters, 1995* requires the Provost to report annually in statistical format on cases of academic discipline to Academic Board.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

N.A.

HIGHLIGHTS:

This year's report is presented in a different format from previous years. During 2007, the Judicial Affairs Office conducted a review of the way in which information on academic discipline is recorded at the local level and noted that there were a number of differences across the academic divisions. In order to improve the reliability of the data, two important changes were introduced for the purposes of this report:

1. Clarity of the definition of 'Reporting Year':

There were divisional differences in the way that the 'Reporting Year' was defined. For reporting purposes it was decided to use the governance year as the Reporting year, that is, from July 1st – June 30th.

2. Principles of inclusion:

The review identified that there were also local differences regarding the appropriate time to count a case for the statistical summary. Some divisions counted cases according to the year in which charges were laid; others counted cases by the year in

which decisions on sanction were made; and others counted cases according to the year in which a sanction was implemented on ROSI, that is, when the case was completely closed. This situation becomes even more complex if the case is referred to the Provost's Office when an even broader range of outcomes may result. Therefore for reporting purposes it was decided that the date of 'resolution' should be used for counting purposes. 'Resolution' is defined as the event which concludes the proceedings under the Code within the University.

The Judicial Affairs office has developed a new database which will further assist the collation and reporting of statistical data on cases of academic discipline. Meetings are planned with divisional representatives to further refine the process of gathering university-wide information for statistical purposes on this important issue.

The information presented in the report provides a summary of University Tribunal Cases for the period July 1st 2006-30th June 2007. During the reporting period, charges were laid in 24 new cases and 18 cases were resolved. The data in general reflect a growing trend in the number of cases of academic misconduct handled both at the divisional level and by the University Tribunal. However, it should be noted that the Report contains raw data – counts of offences and offenders – rather than normalized data and the trend is mitigated to some degree by the growth in the University's enrollment and improvements in the University's means of detecting and handling cases of academic misconduct.

Since the data for this year's report has been collected in a different format it is not possible to make direct comparisons with data from previous years. However, summary data presented in last year's report on Cases of Academic Discipline is provided for information purposes only.

The University continues to take a proactive approach to academic integrity issues. The Office of Teaching Advancement hosts both an on-campus resource centre and an Academic Integrity web site which bring together materials and resources for faculty, students and TAs (www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity). The OTA also runs a variety of workshops and information sessions on a range of topics related to the promotion of academic integrity. Workshops are also organized centrally to assist those responsible for administering the Code at the divisional level. These efforts are augmented by a wide variety of educational initiatives within the divisions that are designed specifically to raise awareness of the importance of academic integrity and to help promote the divisions' commitment to prevention.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

N.A.

RECOMMENDATION:

Report is presented for information.