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OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

TO: Academic Board

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AGENDA ITEM: 15(a)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Provost's Annual Report on Cases of Academic Discipline 2007-08

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:

Each year divisions are asked to report on cases disposed of under Section C of the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*. Information is also collected on the number of cases which come before the University Tribunal. This year's report is presented in the format introduced last year which improves the clarity and reliability of the data. For reporting purposes, the reporting year corresponds to the academic year, that is, from July 1st to June 30th. Resolution of a case refers to the event which concludes the proceedings under the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* within the University.

The report provides a summary of divisional and University Tribunal Cases for both 2006-07 and 2007-08 reporting years. The number of cases of academic misconduct handled at the divisional level reflects a small increase from the previous reporting year. There was a noticeable reduction in the number of cases involving plagiarism, but an increase in cases involving the use of unauthorized aids and other types of cheating for academic advantage.

At the Tribunal level, charges were laid in 21 new cases and 23 cases were resolved during 2007-08. The number of cases heard by the University Tribunal increased when compared with 2006-07. It should be noted that the total number of offences increased significantly, and was greater than the number of offenders indicating that many offenders committed multiple offences. The majority of these offences related to the use of unauthorized aids/collaboration and plagiarism.

In general the data presented 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.

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 website 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 wide varieties of educational initiatives within the divisions that are designed to specifically to raise awareness of the importance of academic integrity and to help promote the divisions' commitment to prevention.

The University is also committed to judicial transparency and procedural fairness. The Judicial Affairs Office provides many resources, including previous Tribunal decisions, on its new website (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/judicialaffairs.htm>) in an effort to educate members of the community on the consequences of academic misconduct, as well as assist those charged with an offence to prepare their defence.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

N.A.

RECOMMENDATION:

Report is presented for information.