



TO: Academic Board

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AGENDA ITEM: 14a)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Provost's Annual Report on Cases of Academic Discipline 2008-09

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 two years ago, 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 – 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 data is collated based on the academic year in which a case is closed, and where it is closed – the division or the Tribunal.

The report provides a summary of divisional and University Tribunal Cases for the 2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09 reporting years. The overall number of cases of academic misconduct handled at the divisional level remains similar to what was reflected in the previous reporting year. There was a noticeable increase in the number of cases involving forgery, plagiarism and use of an unauthorized aid, but a decrease in cases involving concoction and cheating for academic advantage.

At the Tribunal level, charges were laid in 38 new cases and 25 cases were resolved during 2008-09, 8 of which were sent back to the decanal level, which is a slight increase from the previous year. It should be noted that the total number of offences decreased significantly, due to the fact that for the previous reporting year two offenders had committed 68 offences.

In general, the data presented reflect a growing trend in the number of total cases of academic misconduct handled 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. For example, the number of offenders has increased dramatically at University of Toronto Mississauga which correlates directly with intensive educational seminars that were presented to every department, during or slightly prior to the reporting year.

The University continues to take a proactive approach to academic integrity issues. The Centre for Teaching Support and Innovation ("CTSI") 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 CTSI 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 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 Office of Appeals, Discipline and Faculty Grievances ("ADFG") has developed a number of new protocols related to scheduling, tracking and issuing decisions, to help address the rising number of cases handled by the University Tribunal. These protocols, for example, have helped with the issuance of over thirty decisions since last September. The ADFG Office is also in the process of redesigning its website as well as creating a Working Group with various stakeholders to address a variety of issues such as training, communications, website and streamlining processes.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

N.A.

RECOMMENDATION:

Report is presented for information.