



TRIBUNAL DECISIONS UNDER THE
CODE OF BEHAVIOUR ON ACADEMIC MATTERS
(SPRING 2012)

IMPERSONATION AT AN EXAM

Five year suspension; seven year notation on transcript; grade of 0 in the course; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student put someone else's name on an exam, while another Student put his/her name on their exam. The Student did not attend the Hearing, but the Panel found that s/he had received notice and therefore decided to proceed in the Student's absence. The Panel found the Student guilty and noted the following:

- It was a serious offence;
- It was difficult to detect; and
- The only reason the University was not seeking expulsion was because it was not premeditated.

PURCHASED PAPER FROM AN ESSAY MILL

Five year suspension; notation on transcript for seven years of until graduation, whichever is first; grade of 0 in the course; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student signed an Agreed Statement of Facts and pleaded guilty. In finding the Student guilty the Panel noted the following:

- The offence was at the extreme end of the spectrum;
- Need for general deterrence;
- No prior offences;
- Should only be able to avoid expulsion if the Student has shown an ability to reform as well as a prompt acknowledgement of their wrongdoing; and
- The Student did the above in this case and therefore the Tribunal imposed a five year suspension as opposed to expulsion.

THREE STUDENTS PURCHASED PAPERS FROM AN ESSAY MILL

Expulsion for each Student; grade of 0 in the course for each Student; publication of the decision with the names of the Students withheld

Three Students collaborated to purchase a paper for the same course and from the same essay mill. Each Student had multiple prior offences. The Tribunal majority recommended a five year suspension for each Student, while the Chair dissented and recommended expulsion. The Provost appealed and the Discipline Appeals Board unanimously overturned the Tribunal decision and recommended expulsion for each of the three Students. In overturning the Tribunal decision, the Board noted the following:

- One of most egregious offences – intent; commercialism; no independent work and almost impossible to detect – and Provost's Guidelines recommend expulsion;

TRIBUNAL DECISIONS UNDER THE *CODE OF BEHAVIOUR ON ACADEMIC MATTERS* (SPRING 2012)

- The starting proposition is that the likely outcome in most cases of purchasing a paper should be expulsion;
- No evidence in the record that the students were victims;
- No evidence students used this as a last resort;
- More weight has to be given to prior offences;
- Demeanour and expressions of remorse given too much weight and cannot be given equal weight to deterrence;
- With prior offences, purchasing a paper should almost always result in expulsion; and
- Will be rare situation that any purchase paper cases result in less than five year suspension.

PURCHASED PAPER FROM AN ESSAY MILL

Expulsion; grade of 0 in the course; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student signed an Agreed Statement of Facts, an Agreed Statement of Facts on Penalty, and pleaded guilty. In finding the Student guilty the Panel noted the following:

- There was a prior offence;
- The Student initially attempted to deceive the instructor;
- The Student pleaded guilty, attended the hearing and signed Agreed Statements;
- There were no extenuating circumstances;
- It is one of most serious types of offences;
- The Provost's Guidelines recommend expulsion;
- Expulsion is the most appropriate sanction where the offence is purchasing a paper and there is a prior offence;
- The offence is difficult to detect;
- There is a commercial element; and
- There is a need to provide general deterrence.

PLAGIARISM

Three year suspension; four year and five month notation on transcript or until graduation, whichever is earlier; grade of 0 in two courses; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student plagiarised an assignment in one course, and copied a classmate's assignment in another course. The Student signed an Agreed Statement of Facts, and Agreed Statement of Facts on Penalty, a Joint Submission on Penalty, and pleaded guilty. The Panel found the Student guilty and agreed with the proposed sanctions. The Panel noted the following:

- The Student was currently serving a one-year suspension for an academic integrity offence;
- The Student agreed to undertake to complete academic skills workshops;
- The Student was remorseful; and
- It was a high threshold for the Panel to reject a Joint Submission on Penalty.

FALSIFICATION OF TERM TEST

Three year suspension; notation on transcript for four years or until the Student graduates, whichever occurs first; grade of 0 in the course; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student altered marks on a term test and tried to convince the Professor and the TA that there had been a mistake on the marking. The Student signed an Agreed Statement of Facts and pleaded guilty. In finding the Student guilty the Panel noted the following:

- The Student had a prior offence which raised the sanction from a two-year suspension to a three-year suspension;
- The Student deliberately mislead teachers and was a thought-out offence;
- The Student undermined the academic standards of the University; and
- The previous offence also involved an attempt to fraudulently obtain higher grades.

USING AN UNAUTHORIZED AID AND IMPERSONATION OF A COURSE INSTRUCTOR

Expulsion; grade of 0 in two courses; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student impersonated a sessional lecturer by creating a false email account, used an answer key obtained through the impersonation, copied from a classmate who had no knowledge the Student was copying his/her work, and made multiple attempts to break into the University's computer system. The Panel found the Student guilty and noted the following:

- The conduct was egregious;
- There was a need for general deterrence;
- The nature of the offences required a penalty that made it clear the Student's behaviour was unacceptable; and
- The Student still submitted his/her classmate's work as their own, even after being uncovered for impersonating a faculty member.

FORGED MEDICAL CERTIFICATES AND PERSONAL STATEMENTS

Expulsion; grade of 0 in seven courses; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student submitted forged/falsified medical certificates and personal statements in order to defer examinations and receive academic accommodation in 8 courses. The Panel found the Student guilty and noted the following:

- There was premeditation;
- They would have likely recommended expulsion even if there was only one forgery and one false personal statement;
- There was no evidence of the character of the Student;
- Deterrence was important; and
- The forgeries were credible enough that they mislead multiple officials at the University.

TRIBUNAL DECISIONS UNDER THE *CODE OF BEHAVIOUR ON ACADEMIC MATTERS* (SPRING 2012)

PLAGIARISM OF ESSAY

Two year suspension; notation on transcript for two years; grade of 0 in the course; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student committed plagiarism on a term essay. The Student also signed an Agreed Statement of Facts and a Joint Submission on Penalty. In accepting the joint submission, the Panel noted the following:

- There were no compelling reasons to depart from the jointly proposed sanction; and
- The Tribunal jurisprudence made it clear that for a first-time plagiarism charge the standard sanction was a two-year suspension.

MULTIPLE PLAGIARISMS

Four year suspension; notation on transcript for four years; grade of 0 in two courses; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student committed plagiarism in two different course essays. The Student signed an Agreed Statement of Facts and a Joint Submission on Penalty. In accepting the joint submission, the Panel noted the following:

- There was concern that the Student had a prior plagiarism offence, even before the current two instances;
- The Panel may have recommended expulsion but for the joint submission; and
- There had to be a compelling reason to not accept the jointly recommended penalty, and that did not exist in this case.

USING UNAUTHORIZED AIDS IN TWO EXAMS

Three year suspension; notation on transcript for four years; grade of 0 in two courses; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student brought notes into two different exams, where notes were not permitted. The Panel found the Student guilty and noted the following:

- There were two separate offences, as the first offence was brought to the Student's attention before they committed the second offence;
- There was adequate warning in both courses that such aids were not permitted;
- Students have an obligation to make themselves aware of rules; and
- There was a need to deter this Student as well as other students.

TEN COUNTS OF FALSIFYING EVIDENCE

Five year suspension; notation on transcript for six years; grade of 0 in seven courses; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student submitted false and forged documents to obtain academic advantage in seven courses, specifically to defer examinations and to be allowed late withdrawal without academic penalty. Some of the documents included false medical notes and a death note from a hospital, a letter from a notary public and false personal statements. The Student signed an Agreed Statement of Facts and a Joint Submission on Penalty. In accepting the joint submission, the Panel noted the following:

TRIBUNAL DECISIONS UNDER THE *CODE OF BEHAVIOUR ON ACADEMIC MATTERS*
(SPRING 2012)

- The charges were serious because of the nature and extent of the forgeries;
- The Student submitted the documents to obtain an academic advantage and to mislead instructors;
- The Student admitted early to the offences;
- The Student cooperated by pleading guilty and signing an Agreed Statement of Facts and Joint Submission on Penalty;
- The Student had no prior discipline history;
- The Student expressed remorse; and
- There is a high threshold for rejecting a joint submission.

PLAGIARISM

Five year suspension; notation on transcript for seven years; grade of 0 in the course; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student submitted an essay where parts had been plagiarised. The Panel found the Student guilty and noted the following:

- The Student had been disciplined on three prior occasions for plagiarism;
- The Student did not cooperate, and attempted to evade service;
- There was no character evidence of the Student; and
- Plagiarism is serious given easy access to the internet;