



FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: Academic Board

SPONSOR: Mr. Christopher Lang, Director, Appeals, Discipline and Faculty
Grievances

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PRESENTER: See Sponsor

CONTACT INFO:

DATE: May 26, 2014 for June 2, 2014

AGENDA ITEM: 12c

ITEM IDENTIFICATION: University Tribunal, Individual Reports Spring, 2014

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The University Tribunal hears cases of academic discipline under the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters, 1995* (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. **Agenda Committee [for information] (May 20, 2014)**
2. **Academic Board [for information] (June 2, 2014)**

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The last semi-annual report came to the Academic Board on November 21, 2013.

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

¹ <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>

specifics or the sanctions imposed, 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.

**TRIBUNAL DECISIONS UNDER THE
CODE OF BEHAVIOUR ON ACADEMIC MATTERS
(SPRING 2014)**

PLAGIARISED AND FORGED/FALSIFIED MULTIPLE DOCUMENTS

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

The Student attended the hearing and admitted to the allegations. The Tribunal found the Student guilty of plagiarism, including purchasing academic work, as well as falsifying multiple documents (medical certificates, petitions, personal statements), in order to obtain permission to write two deferred examinations. In recommending expulsion, the Tribunal noted the following: when there is the purchase of academic work, two factors in sentencing are paramount – the need to deter others and the detriment to the University; the offences strike deeply at the roots of the institution; and, there was no material difference in the leading appeal decision where expulsion was the recommended sanction.

FORGED AND FALSIFIED MULTIPLE DOCUMENTS

Expulsion; cancellation of 7 transfer credits that were granted; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student did not attend the hearing, but the Tribunal was satisfied he received adequate notice. The Tribunal found the Student guilty of eight counts of forging and falsifying multiple documents related to admission to the University (false transcripts from other institutions), as well as seven transfer credits he never completed. In recommending expulsion, the Tribunal noted the following: the conduct was serious and repetitive; the Student did not engage in the discipline process; there was no evidence of any mitigating circumstances; there was serious harm to the integrity of the University; and, there was a need for general and specific deterrence.

MULTIPLE PLAGIARISMS

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

The Student attended the first hearing date, pleaded guilty and agreed with the facts put forth. The Student did not attend the second hearing date but the Tribunal determined appropriate notice was given and it proceeded in the Student's absence. In recommending expulsion the Tribunal noted the following: there was plagiarism in three courses; the Student failed to attend the penalty phase; the Student breached the conditions upon which an adjournment was

granted; the Student did not mitigate his conduct; and, there was a need for general deterrence.

PLAGIARISM AND UNAUTHORIZED AID/ASSISTANCE

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

The Student attended the hearing, pleaded guilty and agreed with the facts put forth, which involved purchasing and selling academic work. In finding the Student guilty and recommending expulsion, the Tribunal noted the following: the main aggravating factor that justified expulsion over suspension, was that the Student sold her academic materials to others; the Student failed to consider the detriment to other students through the sale of her materials, which was deliberate and involved advertising; there was significant harm to the University; and, there was a need for general deterrence.

USE OF AN UNAUTHORIZED AID

Three-year suspension; grade of 0 in the course; notation on transcript for a period of four years; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student attended the hearing dates but the facts and sanction were contested. The Tribunal found the Student guilty of bringing an old exam into another exam, and running away with it to cover up. In imposing the sanction the Tribunal noted the following: although this was a first offence, the Student engaged in a lengthy and deliberate course of deception after the fact; it was a serious offence; the Student failed to acknowledge the wrongdoing; and there was a need to deter others.

MULTIPLE PLAGIARISMS AND USE OF UNAUTHORIZED AIDS

Suspension of slightly less than five years; grade of 0 in four courses; notation on transcript for slightly less than five years; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student attended the hearing, pleaded guilty, and agreed with both the facts and sanctions put forth. In finding the Student guilty of eight offences and imposing the sanctions, the Tribunal noted the following: the offences were serious and occurred in four different courses; the Student had a prior disciplinary incident; the nature of the misconduct threatened academic integrity; the Student cooperated, attended and expressed remorse; and the sanctions were consistent with past decisions.

PLAGIARISM

Three year suspension; grade of 0 in the course; notation on transcript for three-and-a-half years or graduation, whichever occurs first; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student attended and was found guilty of plagiarizing an essay. In imposing the sanctions the Tribunal noted the following: the offence was serious; the extent of the plagiarism was significant; the plagiarism was deliberate; and there was a need to deter others.

FORGED AND FALSIFIED MULTIPLE DOCUMENTS

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

The Student attended, agreed with the facts and pleaded guilty. The Tribunal found the Student guilty of submitting multiple forged and falsified documents, including medical certificates and personal statements, in order to receive academic accommodations. The Student agreed with the proposed sanctions, and in imposing them, the Tribunal noted the following: the offences were serious; there was a need for specific and general deterrence; the Student cooperated and showed remorse; and the Student had no prior offences.

MULTIPLE IMPERSONATIONS AND REMOVAL OF AN EXAM

Four year suspension; grade of 0 in the course; notation on transcript until graduation; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student attended, pleaded guilty and agreed with the facts put forth. The Tribunal found the Student guilty of impersonating multiple faculty members to obtain an advanced copy of an exam, and of removing an exam after the examination. In imposing the sanctions the Tribunal noted the following: the offences were serious, deliberate and repeated; the Student had not accepted full responsibility; and he pleaded guilty.

MULTIPLE FORGERIES AND FALSIFICATIONS

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

The Student did not attend but the Tribunal found adequate notice had been provided and the case proceeded in the absence of the Student. The Tribunal found the Student guilty of forging and falsifying multiple documents, including medical certificates and absent declaration letters in order to seek permission to write deferred examinations. In imposing the sanctions the Tribunal noted the

following: there was no evidence of mitigating circumstances or expressions of remorse; the offences were serious and extended over many months; there was detriment to the University because it has to be able to rely on its processes; there was a need to deter others; and, expulsion was consistent with other cases.

MULTIPLE FORGERIES AND FALSIFICATIONS

Expulsion; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student did not attend, but agreed with the facts put forth. The Tribunal found the Student guilty of forging and falsifying multiple documents related to his academic history, including a degree certificate, and cover letters and resumes, indicating he had completed various degrees. In imposing the sanctions the Tribunal noted the following: the offences were serious; there was no evidence of any mitigating circumstances; there was a need for general deterrence; and, expulsion was consistent with past cases.

PLAGIARISM

Two year suspension; grade of 0 in the course; notation on transcript until graduation; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student did not attend, but the Tribunal determined he had received appropriate notice and proceeded in the Student's absence. The Tribunal found the Student guilty, and in imposing the sanctions noted the following: the detriment to the University; the need to deter others; this was the Student's first offence; and, the Student did not engage in the process.

PLAGIARISM

Four year suspension; grade of 0 in the course; notation on transcript until graduation; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student did not attend, but agreed that the hearing could proceed in her absence. The Student also agreed with the facts put forth and the proposed sanctions. The Tribunal found the Student guilty of plagiarising an essay, and in imposing the sanctions noted the following: the Student had two prior incidents of academic misconduct, namely plagiarism; and, she cooperated and admitted guilt.

USING AN UNAUTHORIZED AID

Three year suspension; grade of 0 in the course; notation on transcript until graduation; publication of the decision with the name of the Student withheld

The Student participated via Skype, and agreed with the facts and proposed sanctions. The Tribunal found her guilty of possessing and using cheat sheets during a quiz. In imposing the sanctions the Tribunal noted the following: the Student had two prior academic offences; she suffered from depression; she was receiving treatment thereby showing insight into her actions; she cooperated; and, she expressed remorse.