



**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 21, 2020 for May 28, 2020

**AGENDA ITEM:** 16(c)

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

University Tribunal, Information Reports, Spring 2020

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

The University Tribunal hears cases of academic discipline under the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters, 1995* (the “Code”)<sup>1</sup> 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. Academic Board [for information] (May 28, 2020)**

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

The last semi-annual report came to the Academic Board on November 21, 2019.

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

**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 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.

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**DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:**

- Information Reports of Tribunal Decisions under the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters, 1995* (Spring 2020)

**TRIBUNAL DECISIONS UNDER THE**  
**CODE OF BEHAVIOUR ON ACADEMIC MATTERS**  
**(SPRING 2020)**

**PLAGIARISED AN ESSAY**

**Four-year suspension; notation on transcript for five years; grade of zero in the course; publication of decision and sanctions with Student's name withheld**

The Student submitted an essay in which they plagiarized. The Student pleaded guilty, and agreed with the facts and proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty, and in imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student had two prior academic offences; the proposed sanctions were consistent with other similar cases; and there was a high threshold to reject a jointly proposed sanction.

**FORGED OR FALSIFIED TWO ACADEMIC RECORDS**

**Expulsion; five-year suspension; publication of a notice of decision and sanctions with Student's name withheld.**

The Student submitted a falsified degree certificate and an academic transcript to another University. In finding the Student guilty, and in imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the offences were serious; they damaged the University's reputation because they undermined the trust other institutions and employers have in the University and its students; there were no mitigating factors, as the Student did not participate; and the penalties were consistent with other similar cases.

**FORGED OR FALSIFIED AN ACADEMIC RECORD**

**Expulsion; five-year suspension; publication of decision and sanctions with Student's name withheld**

The Student submitted a forged degree certificate to an employment verification agency. In finding the Student guilty, and in imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student did not participate so there were no mitigating factors before the Panel; the sanctions were similar to those in other cases; the offence was serious; and the offence damaged the University's reputation as it undermined the trust other institutions have in the University and its students.

### **MULTIPLE PLAGIARISMS**

**Four-year suspension; grade of zero in four courses; notation on transcript for five years; publication of decision and sanctions with name of Student withheld**

The Student plagiarized an essay, a midterm paper, a report and a lab report. The Student pleaded guilty, agreed with the facts, and proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty, and in imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: there is a high threshold to reject a jointly proposed sanction; the offences were serious and deliberate; there was detriment to the University; and the Student cooperated and demonstrated remorse and insight into their actions.

### **MULTIPLE FORGED MEDICAL DOCUMENTS**

**Five-year suspension; grade of zero in two courses; notation on transcript for six years; publication of decision and sanctions with Student's name withheld**

The Student submitted two forged Verification of Illness forms in support of writing two deferred exams. In finding the Student guilty, and in imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the offences were serious; as the Student did not participate, there was no evidence of mitigating factors; the Student had a prior offence; and given there was no evidence the Student purchased the notes, the Panel did not recommend expulsion.

### **POSSESSION OF AN UNAUTHORIZED AID**

**Two-year suspension; grade of zero in the course; notation on transcript for three years; publication of decision and sanctions with Student's name withheld**

The Student had notes and relevant code/formulae written on their hand during an examination. In finding the Student guilty, and in imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the sanctions were consistent with other cases; the Student did not participate, so there was no evidence of mitigating circumstances; the offence was serious; the detriment to the University was significant; there was a need to deter others; and unauthorized aids are a threat to the integrity of the University's evaluative processes.

## **MULTIPLE FORGED ACADEMIC DOCUMENTS**

**Expulsion; five-year suspension; publication of decision and sanctions with Student's name withheld**

The Student circulated or made use of two falsified Confirmation of Enrolment Letters in support of replacing a study permit. In finding the Student guilty, and in imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the Student did not participate in the process; although this was the Student's first offence, when they were caught with the first letter, they submitted a second letter that was a better forgery; the falsifications were deliberate; there was a need for general deterrence as these offences are easy to commit and hard to police; and there was significant harm to the University and other students who depend on a fair immigration system in order to be able to study and live in Canada lawfully.

## **FORGED OR FALSIFIED AN ACADEMIC RECORD**

**Expulsion; up to five-year suspension; publication of decision and sanctions with the Student's name withheld**

The Student forged or falsified their degree certificate to a Canadian Consulate. In finding the Student guilty, and in imposing the sanctions, the Panel noted the following: the offence undermined the University's integrity and the credibility of those who receive degrees from the University; forged degrees are a growing concern that require strong denunciation; there is no evidence of mitigating factors as the Student did not participate in the process; reformation of the Student was of limited relevance given the Student had not acquired many credits; and the sanctions were consistent with those in other similar cases.

## **MULTIPLE INSTANCES OF UNAUTHORIZED AIDS**

**Suspension of just over three years and three months; grade of zero in four courses; notation on the transcript for four roughly years and three months, or until graduation, whichever is first; publication of decision and sanctions with the Student's name withheld**

The Student accessed the internet during five online tests and one online exam, in four courses. The Student pleaded guilty, agreed with the facts, and proposed sanctions. In finding the Student guilty, and in imposing the agreed-upon sanctions, the Panel noted the following: there was a high threshold to reject a jointly proposed sanction; the offences were serious; cheating on an exam is unfair to other students; there were multiple offences over a period of time, and not a one-time lapse in judgement; this was the Student's first offence; the Student admitted guilt early and cooperated throughout the process; and the Student's actions and testimony demonstrated insight

and remorse – they showed gratitude for being given a second chance and described the steps they were taking to ensure this conduct never recurred.