

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
UNIVERSITY TRIBUNAL

IN THE MATTER OF charges of academic dishonesty made on April 7, 2007;

AND IN THE MATTER OF the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters, 1995*;

AND IN THE MATTER OF the *University of Toronto Act, 1971*, S.O. 1971, c. 56 as amended S.O. 1978, c. 88

BETWEEN:

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

- and -

A [REDACTED] M [REDACTED]

Hearing Date: April 24, 2008

Members of the Panel:

- Ms. Laura Trachuk, Barrister and Solicitor, Chair
- Professor William Weiss, Faculty Panel Member
- Ms. Melanie Bleue, Student Panel Member

Appearances:

- Ms. Erin Burbidge, Assistant Discipline Counsel, for the University
- Mr. Rob Centa, Assistant Discipline Counsel, for the University

In Attendance:

- Mr. Scott Moore, Quality Assessment Officer, School of Graduate Studies
- Ms. A [REDACTED] M [REDACTED], the Student, not in attendance

[1] A hearing was held with respect to charges filed against A [REDACTED] M [REDACTED] under the *University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters, 1995* on April 24, 2008. Ms. M [REDACTED] did not attend the hearing but she did sign an Agreed Statement of Facts in which she pled guilty to two of the charges. The panel accepted her plea and found her guilty on two charges. Ms. M [REDACTED] also signed a Joint Submission on Penalty.

Decision on Penalty

[2] The following ruling on penalty was issued orally on April 24, 2008:

The panel accepts the joint submission on penalty. Expulsion is the most serious penalty which can be imposed under the Code. However, the offence for which the student has been convicted is an extremely serious one. Ms. M [REDACTED] submitted two essays in POL 200Y which she had obtained in large part from internet sources. It is essential that academic work submitted for credit be original. It is unfair to the other students if credit is received for papers that have been purchased. It is fundamental to the University's reputation that it show no tolerance for plagiarism.

The panel therefore imposes the following penalty:

1. A grade of zero shall be assigned in POL 200Y.
2. We recommend that the President recommend to the Governing Council that Ms. M [REDACTED] be expelled from the University.
3. Pending the decision of the Governing Council, Ms. M [REDACTED] should be suspended from the University for a period up to five years.
4. This decision should be reported to the Provost who may publish a notice of this decision and the sanctions imposed with Ms. M [REDACTED]'s name withheld.

I certify that this is the decision of the Panel

Nov. 6, 2009
Date

[Signature]
Laura Trachuk, Barrister and Solicitor (Chair)

University of Toronto and A [redacted] M [redacted]

Joint Submission on Penalty

1. The University of Toronto and A [redacted] M [redacted] submit to the Tribunal that the appropriate penalty in all the circumstances of this case is that:

- a. the Tribunal impose a grade of zero in POL 200Y;
- b. the Tribunal recommend to the President that he recommend to the Governing Council that Ms. M [redacted] be expelled from the University; and
- c. pending the decision of the Governing Council, that Ms. M [redacted] be suspended from the University for a period of up to five years.

2. The University of Toronto and Ms. M [redacted] submit that the Tribunal should report this case to the Provost who may publish a notice of the decision of the Tribunal and the sanctions imposed, with Ms. M [redacted]'s name withheld.

3. Ms. M [redacted] acknowledges that the University of Toronto has advised her to obtain independent legal advice before signing this Joint Submission on Penalty and that she has either done so or expressly waived that right.

Signed in Toronto on April 23, 2008.

Signed in Toronto on April 23, 2008.

Robert A. Centa
Assistant Discipline Counsel
University of Toronto

University of Toronto and A [REDACTED] M [REDACTED]

Agreed Statement of Facts**I. Background**

1. The University of Toronto admitted A [REDACTED] M [REDACTED] to the Faculty of Arts and Science in Fall 2003. A copy of Ms. M [REDACTED]'s academic record dated April 3, 2008, is attached to this Agreed Statement of Facts at Tab 1.
2. At all material times, Ms. M [REDACTED] was a student of the University of Toronto.
3. In Fall 2005, Ms. M [REDACTED] enrolled in POL 200Y Political Theory: Visions of the Just/Good Society ("Course"). Professor Cliff Orwin taught the Course.
4. On April 5, 2007, the University of Toronto filed charges against Ms. M [REDACTED] under its Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters ("April Charges" and "Code") in connection with academic work submitted in the Course. A copy of the April Charges is attached to this Agreed Statement of Facts at Tab 2.
5. On July 4, 2007, the University of Toronto filed additional charges against Ms. M [REDACTED] under the Code ("July Charges") in connection with academic work submitted in the Course. A copy of the July Charges is attached to this Agreed Statement of Facts at Tab 3.

6. On March 20, 2008, the University delivered a notice of hearing in this matter to Ms. M [REDACTED]. A copy of that notice of hearing is attached to this Agreed Statement of Facts at Tab 4.

II. Facts Related to the April Charges

7. On or about October 28, 2005, Ms. M [REDACTED] submitted a paper on Niccolo Machiavelli's book *The Prince* in partial fulfilment of the Course requirements (the "Machiavelli Paper"). A copy of the Machiavelli Paper is attached to this Agreed Statement of Facts at Tab 5.

8. Ms. M [REDACTED] admits that the Machiavelli Paper contained verbatim and nearly verbatim text that she did not properly acknowledge, cite, or reference.

9. Ms. M [REDACTED] admits that she did no meaningful academic work on the Machiavelli Paper, which was purchased from an internet based essay service. A copy of the paper from the essay service is attached to this Agreed Statement of Facts at Tab 6.

III. Facts related to the July Charges

10. On or about March 31, 2006, Ms. M [REDACTED] submitted a paper titled "Plato's Republican Rulers: Guardians and Good Citizens" in partial fulfilment of the Course requirements (the "Plato Paper"). A copy of the Plato Paper is attached to this Agreed Statement of Facts at Tab 7.

11. Ms. M [REDACTED] admits that the Plato Paper contained verbatim and nearly verbatim text that she did not properly acknowledge, cite, or reference.

12. Ms. M [REDACTED] admits that she did no meaningful academic work on the Plato Paper, which was purchased from an internet based essay service. A copy of the paper - from the essay service is attached to this Agreed Statement of Facts at Tab 8.

IV. Meeting with the Dean's Designate

13. The Faculty of Arts and Science attempted on a number of occasions to discuss these matters with Ms. M [REDACTED] as required by the Code. Ms. M [REDACTED] admits that she did not attend these meetings despite the University's attempt to schedule them.

V. Admissions

14. Ms. M [REDACTED] admits that in both the Machiavelli Paper and the Plato Paper she knowingly represented as her own an idea or expression of an idea and/or the work of another, contrary to section B.I.1(d) of the Code.

15. Ms. M [REDACTED] admits that the Machiavelli Paper and the Plato Paper were purchased over the internet and she then submitted them in her own name and in so doing she knowingly represented as her own an idea or expression of an idea and/or the work of another, contrary to section B.I.1(d) of the Code.

16. Ms. M [redacted] admits that she is guilty of charge #1 of the April Charges.

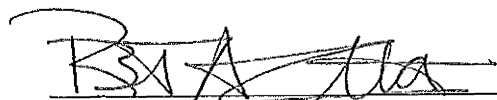
17. Ms. M [redacted] admits that she is guilty of charge #1 of the July Charges.

18. Ms. M [redacted] acknowledges that the University of Toronto has advised her to obtain independent legal advice before signing this Agreed Statement of Facts and that she has done so or expressly waives the right to do so.

Signed in Toronto on April 23, 2008.


A [redacted] M [redacted]

Signed in Toronto on April 23, 2008.


Robert A. Centa
Assistant Discipline Counsel
University of Toronto