

**THE UNIVERSITY TRIBUNAL
THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

IN THE MATTER OF charges of academic dishonesty made on November 12, 2013,

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

B E T W E E N:

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

- AND -

C [REDACTED] L [REDACTED]

REASONS FOR DECISION

Date of Hearing: Wednesday, August 27, 2014

Members of the Panel:

Mr. Clifford Lax, Lawyer, Chair

Dr. Maria Rozakis-Adcock, Faculty of Medicine, Faculty Panel Member

Ms. Susan Mazzatto, Student Panel Member

Appearances:

Ms. Tina Lie, Assistant Discipline Counsel, Paliare Roland Barristers

Mr. Terry Johnston, Assistant Director, Office of Convocation, Governing Council

Ms. Catherine Seguin, Dean's Designate, University of Toronto Mississauga

Ms. Lucy Gaspini, Manager, Academic Integrity and Affairs, University of Toronto Mississauga

In Attendance:

Mr. Adam Wheeler, Observer

Ms. Natalie Ramtahal, Coordinator, Appeals, Discipline and Faculty Grievances

1. Cheating and academic dishonesty usually take place surreptitiously and covertly.
2. In this case, C■■■ L■ ("L■") brazenly impersonated another student at the Convocation Ceremony of June 11, 2012, in order to make it appear as though he was graduating from the University. L■ obtained a presenter card from the Student Marshall in the name of the real graduate and then mounted the convocation stage, accepted the degree bearing the name of the other student, left the stage and gave the photographer the name of the real graduate and had his photograph taken in place of the graduate, and then signed the book that students are required to sign, in order to pick up their diploma. (Charges attached as "Appendix A")
3. What L■ did was done deliberately, brazenly and without explanation. He was not eligible to graduate on June 11, 2012, due to the fact that on two prior occasions he had been caught plagiarizing; the result of which was to reduce his mark in those two courses to "zero". Therefore, he was still some credits shy of graduating when he decided to impersonate an actual graduate.

Admission of Guilt

4. On October 3, 2013, at a meeting with the Dean's designate, when confronted with the evidence which conclusively established that L■ had impersonated the real graduate, L■ admitted that he was guilty of both forgery (Section B.1.1(a) of the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* as well as academic dishonesty and misconduct, fraud of misrepresentation (Section B.1.3(b) of the *Code*).

Sanction

5. The student did not appear at this hearing. He has not offered any explanation for his conduct. His outlandish conduct defies comprehension.
6. When coupled with the student's two prior acts of plagiarism, it is clear that the student has no rightful place within the University community.

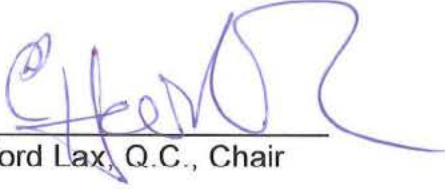
Decision of the Tribunal

7. As a result, the Panel concludes:
 - a) That L■ be immediately suspended from the University of Toronto for a period of up to five (5) years from the date of this Order or until Governing Council makes its decision on expulsion, whichever comes first, and that a corresponding notation be placed in his academic record and transcript;
 - b) The Tribunal recommends to the President of the University that he recommend to the Governing Council that L■ be expelled from the University; and,

- c) That the case be reported to the Provost, with L's name withheld, for publication of a notice of the Decision of the Tribunal and the sanctions imposed.

All of which is ordered on August 27, 2014.

Dated at Toronto, this 2th day of October, 2014.



Clifford Lax, Q.C., Chair

APPENDIX A



Via email

CONFIDENTIAL

November 12, 2013

Mr. C [REDACTED] I [REDACTED]

Email: c [REDACTED] i [REDACTED]@mail.utoronto.ca

Dear Mr. I [REDACTED]:

On the advice of the University Discipline Counsel, I am writing to inform you that you are hereby charged with the offences as detailed in the document.

By copy of this letter I have informed Mr. Christopher Lang, Director, Appeals, Discipline and Faculty Grievances, of the Academic Tribunal, who will be in touch with you regarding the Tribunal's proceedings.

Yours Sincerely,

Professor Edith Hillan
Vice-Provost, Faculty & Academic Life

EMH:dsh

Encl.

cc: C. Lang
T. Lie
C. Sequin

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO MISSISSAUGA

C [REDACTED] L [REDACTED]

CHARGES

Note: Wherever in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters, 1995 ("Code") an offence is described as depending on "knowing", the offence shall likewise be deemed to have been committed if the person ought reasonably to have known.

1. On or about June 11, 2012, you knowingly personated S [REDACTED] L [REDACTED] at convocation, contrary to section B.I.1.(c) of the Code.
2. On or about June 11, 2012, you knowingly forged or in any other way falsified a document or evidence required by the University of Toronto, namely, the signature book that students were required to sign in order to pick up their diploma, or uttered, circulated, or made use of such forged, altered or falsified document, contrary to section B.I.1.(a) of the Code.
3. In the alternative, on or about June 11, 2012, you knowingly engaged in a form of cheating, academic dishonesty or misconduct, fraud or misrepresentation not otherwise described, in order to obtain academic credit or other academic advantage of any kind, contrary to section B.I.3.(b) of the Code.

Particulars

4. At all material times, you were a student at the University of Toronto Mississauga.
5. At all material times, S [REDACTED] L [REDACTED] was also a student at the University of Toronto Mississauga.
6. By the end of the Winter 2012 terms, you were not eligible to graduate. Ms. L [REDACTED] was eligible to graduate, and was scheduled to graduate at the University of Toronto convocation ceremony on June 11, 2012, at 9:30 am (the "Convocation Ceremony").
7. Ms. L [REDACTED] did not attend the Convocation Ceremony.

8. On June 11, 2012, you attended the Convocation Ceremony and engaged in the following conduct:

- (a) you obtained a presenter card from the Student Marshall that read "S■■■■ L■■■". You did not inform the Student Marshall that you had received the presenter card in error;
- (b) when Ms. L■■■'s name was called, you crossed the convocation stage;
- (c) you informed the photographer at the Convocation Ceremony that you were "S■■■■ L■■■" and had your photograph taken in the place of Ms. L■■■;
- (d) you identified yourself as Ms. L■■■ to members of the University of Toronto's staff, and signed the book that students were required to sign in order to pick up their diploma (the "Signature Book") in the place reserved for Ms. L■■■'s signature; and
- (e) you picked up Ms. L■■■'s diploma.

9. You knew or ought reasonably to have known that:

- (a) you were not eligible to graduate at the Convocation Ceremony; and
- (b) you were not Ms. L■■■ at each of the stages of the process described above.

10. You engaged in the conduct described above in order to obtain academic credit or other academic advantage, namely, to hold yourself out as having graduated from the University of Toronto and/or to obtain a University of Toronto diploma.

11. By engaging in the conduct described above, you knowingly:

- (a) personated Ms. L■■■ at the Convocation Ceremony;
- (b) forged or in any other way falsified the Signature Book by signing in the place reserved for Ms. L■■■'s signature; and/or
- (c) engaged in a form of cheating, academic dishonesty or misconduct, fraud or misrepresentation not otherwise described in the Code.