



FILE: 1997/98-02

November 12, 1997

Via Courier

Personal and Confidential

Ms T



Richmond Hill, ON



Dear Ms T:

At its hearing held on November 10, 1997, the Trial Division of the University Tribunal considered the following charge against you:

THAT on or about November 4, 1996 you did knowingly represent as your own an idea or expression of an idea, a work of another in connection with a form of academic work namely, in an essay entitled Native Middlemen and the Idea of Economic Alliance in the Eighteenth Century Fur Trade submitted to fulfill course requirements in ECO 321Y, contrary to section B.I.1.(d) of the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters, 1995. Pursuant to Section B of the Code you are deemed to have acted knowingly or you ought reasonably to have known that you represented as your own, an idea or expression of an idea or work of another.

In particular, in the Fall of 1996 you were a student in ECO 321Y. In or about November, 1996 you submitted an essay entitled Native Middlemen and the Idea of Economic Alliance in the Eighteenth Century Fur Trade which had been purchased from an essay service.

The panel accepted your guilty plea and imposed the following sanctions:

- assignment of a grade of zero in ECO 321Y;
- a period of suspension from the University of two years from November 10, 1997 to November 9, 1999; and
- that the suspension and the reason for it be recorded on your academic record and transcript for a period of three years from November 10, 1997 to November 9, 2000.

The panel also recommended that the decision and sanctions imposed be reported to the

Vice-President and Provost for publication in the University newspapers, with your name withheld.

The panel provided the following reasons for its decision:

Ms T has pleaded guilty to the offence under Section B.I.1.(d) of the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. She admits purchasing an essay for ECO 321Y from Custom Essay Service. She ordered the essay three weeks before the course deadline for submitting the assignment. She then spent three hours retyping it, changing only a few words and submitted it to Professor Rotstein under her own name. This plagiarism came to light only as a result of another student in the class submitting the same essay. Ms T admitted the purchase and co-operated with the University.

Plagiarism strikes at the heart of academic integrity. The reputation of the University in general and of the graduates who hold its degrees rests upon honest academic merit and achievement. Submitting a piece of work that is entirely plagiarized is the most serious form of this offence. To purchase an entire piece of work and thereby support a corrupt commercial business is the antithesis of the academic experience and is a very significant offence.

Ms T testified that she was unaccustomed to writing essays and felt under time pressure due to a heavy course load and family responsibilities keeping house for her two adult brothers. She made no attempt to discuss her situation with the professor or the teaching assistant in the course. She testified she felt she had no other option to fulfill the course requirements. The panel disagrees with this. However, the panel did take into account the fact Ms T completed the rest of the course, submitting the second essay assignment and writing the final exam. As well, she took two additional courses to accumulate enough credits to obtain a B.A. degree regardless of the outcome in ECO 321Y. She is now in a position to receive her degree without further academic work. The panel is advised that she has returned to Hong Kong and is working now.

The Panel has considered Ms T's full confession, guilty plea and indication of remorse as mitigating factors and believes she is not likely to re-offend; however, the Panel is of the view that given the very serious nature of the offence, that the [above] sanctions be imposed.

The Tribunal is reporting the case to the Vice-President and Provost for publication in the University newspapers, with your name withheld.

Information concerning rights of appeal may be found in Section E of the Code. The deadline for filing an appeal by you or by the University is December 12, 1997.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret McKone

Ms Margaret McKone
University Tribunal

cc: K. Chown, Chair, Tribunal Panel
S. Bartkiw, Administrative Assistant, Arts and Science
D. Bernstein, Counsel for the Defendant
P. Gooch, Vice-Provost
L. Rothstein, Counsel for the University