

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT NUMBER 25 OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC APPEALS

August 4th, 1976

To the Academic Affairs Committee,
University of Toronto.

Your Subcommittee reports that it held a meeting on August 4th, 1976, at 11:00 a.m., in the Council Chamber, Faculty of Pharmacy, 19 Russell Street, at which the following were present:

Professor J.B. Dunlop (In the Chair)
Mrs. Frances Barten
Professor J. Michael Bliss
Principal A.M. Kruger

Professor J.W. Meakin
Mr. Felix M. Salazar
Professor Peter H. Salus
Ms. C. Lendenmann (Acting Secretary)

In Attendance:

Dean J. Beckwith
Faculty of Music

Mr. K.

Dean W.E. Alexander
Faculty of Pharmacy

Mr. A.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE REPORTED FOR INFORMATION

THE MEETING WAS HELD IN OPEN SESSION

1. Mr. K.

At its meeting on August 4th, 1976, the Subcommittee on Academic Appeals considered the appeal of Mr. K. against a decision of the Council of the Faculty of Music refusing his petition to be allowed to include Applied Music in his 1976-77 programme. The decision of the Subcommittee is to request the Faculty to reconsider Mr. K's case.

The appellant's status in 1976-77 will be that of a Special Student, a status granted by the Faculty because, although Mr. K. has requirements to meet for his degree, he does not need to take a full course load to acquire the necessary units of credit. The Faculty's rule is that Special Students may not take Applied Music. The rationale of the rule is sound. If it were otherwise, the status of Special Student could become a means of obtaining inexpensive instrumental lessons and could be an unacceptable drain on the Faculty's resources. On the other hand the Subcommittee felt that the appellant's position was sufficiently unusual that the Faculty might make an exception in his case without establishing a dangerous precedent. The appellant has been a full-time student and, indeed, has taken more than the minimal required course load in previous years. He is proposing to take three-quarters of the minimal load in 1976-77. His Special Student status is a reflection of his interests and his needs. He is a bona fide degree candidate and not a person whose participation in Applied Music would constitute the kind of abuse the Faculty seeks to avoid.

YOUR SUBCOMMITTEE AGREED

THAT in light of the evidence presented in the appeal of Mr. K, it is recommended that the Faculty of Music reconsider his case concerning enrolment in Applied Music for 1976-77.

2. Mr. A.

At its meeting on August 4th, 1976, the Subcommittee on Academic Appeals considered the appeal of Mr. A. from a decision of the Applications and Memorials Committee of the Faculty of Pharmacy refusing the appellant's petition to be allowed to proceed to the third year or, in the alternative, to be reinstated in the second year. The decision of the Subcommittee was to dismiss the appeal.

The appellant's case was that personal and family financial problems throughout the year and illness during the examination period had interfered with his ability to concentrate on his studies and to demonstrate his real ability. There could be no doubt Mr. A. had problems and because of this the Subcommittee had sympathy for his situation. On the other hand, while it seems likely that Mr. A. has the ability to master the course work in his programme, he has not mastered it. The appellant's work was consistently weak, at least in some subjects. Furthermore there was evidence that he had not availed himself of opportunities during the year to attempt to find solutions to his difficulty. He could have sought additional financial aid but did not. He could have discussed his work problems with his faculty advisor. Indeed he was requested to do so but declined.

If the Subcommittee had felt that the appellant, but for his illness at examination time, would clearly have passed his year it might have been in a position to grant the appeal. The record of Mr. A's work over two years however did not establish such a conclusion.

YOUR SUBCOMMITTEE AGREED

THAT the appeal of Mr. A. be denied against a decision of the Applications and Memorial Committee of the Faculty of Pharmacy.

3. Recommendations of the University Ombudsman

The Chairman briefly outlined the recommendations of the University Ombudsman concerning guidelines for academic appeals. It was decided that it would be best to discuss the recommendations in detail at the next meeting when all members could be present.

4. Subcommittee Meeting Schedule

The Chairman suggested that the Subcommittee set aside a regular meeting time in order to avoid the scheduling conflicts which arise when meetings are called on short notice. It was agreed that the Subcommittee would meet once per month and call additional meetings as required. The day and time for the meetings will be established shortly.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Secretary
August 13th, 1976

Chairman