

REPORT NUMBER 102 OF THE ACADEMIC APPEALS BOARD

September 19th, 1986

To the Academic Affairs Committee,
University of Toronto.

Your Board reports that it held a hearing on Friday, September 19th, 1986 at 2:00 p.m., in the Board Room, Simcoe Hall at which the following were present:

Professor J. B. Dunlop (In the Chair) Professor A. Shark
M.A. M. Bilaniuk
Professor K. S. Pang
Mrs. J. R. Randall Ms. Irene Birrell, Secretary

In Attendance:

Mr. *L.*
Mr. Tony Carella
Dean A. R. Ten Cate, Faculty of Dentistry

THE FOLLOWING ITEM IS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION

At a meeting on September 19th, 1986 the Academic Appeals Board heard the appeal of *M.A.L.* against the decision of the Appeals Committee of the Faculty of Dentistry dismissing his appeal to be allowed to repeat first year dentistry. The appellant, who had failed six out of ten courses, appealed on compassionate grounds. The decision of the Board is that the appeal should be allowed.

The appellant had immigrated to Canada from *Europe* about two years before he entered the Faculty. He lived with his mother, a widow, in a tri-plex, which the mother owned. She experienced serious difficulty with her tenants which she was unable to cope with, partly because of a lack of facility in the English language. The curate of their parish, in a letter presented to the Board, said that he feared that the stress experienced by the appellant's mother was pushing her towards a breakdown. He had therefore asked the appellant to undertake full responsibility for dealing with the tenants whose behaviour apparently was offensive, who were militant about what they deemed to be their rights and who frequently withheld rental payments. The appellant stated that there was "a very real possibility during the course of the academic year that my mother might face bankruptcy". According to the appellant it was less a question of the time consumed by dealing with these problems than the distraction and stress which they created that affected his ability to work. Ultimately the mother sold the tri-plex and now lives in a single-family house. But the problems, which began in August of 1985, troubled the appellant throughout the year. In addition, the termination of their engagement by the appellant's fiancée occurred just prior to the final examinations. This caused him distress.

The appellant sought no assistance from any member of the faculty with his difficulties although such assistance would have been available. Indeed, two letters from his professor of Oral Anatomy and Occlusion pointed out that he was having problems and invited him to seek assistance. The appellant, who had studied medicine for a short time in *Europe*, said he was used to *his country's* system where the students do not approach professors with their problems. It should be very clear to the appellant now, however, that he should seek assistance when he needs assistance.

No doubt many students have distracting problems during an academic year. The Board felt the appellant's were grave enough to warrant relief on compassionate grounds.

REPORT NUMBER 102 OF THE ACADEMIC APPEALS BOARD - September 19th, 1986

The appeal is allowed. The appellant should be permitted to repeat first year.

Secretary
September 25th, 1986

Chairman