

REPORT NUMBER 105 OF THE ACADEMIC APPEALS BOARD - November 21st, 1986

To receive and hear all petitions and appeals from any member of the Faculty and to report its actions to the Council.

The reasons for the decision of the Applications and Memorials Committee of the School of Graduate Studies contain the following paragraph:

The Applications and Memorials Committee found the language of (a) the Constitution and (b) the Manual of Grading Policies and Procedures of the Faculty of Social Work to be ambiguous and ex facie apparently conflicting as to whether it was mandatory to give Mr. M. a hearing. The Committee recommends that these documents be clarified and made consistent. The Applications and Memorials Committee's own hearing, however, gave Mr. M. an opportunity to present his case on the question of the evaluation of his practicum.

In the Board's view, the conflict is not irreconcilable once it is accepted that there must be exceptions to the rule against repeating.

The Applications and Memorials Committee heard certain evidence and decided to dismiss the appeal. It is the Board's view that the appropriate remedy is to direct a hearing at the Faculty level. It seems to the Board to be important, at least in the first instance, that the appeal be considered by members of the discipline of Social Work. A hearing before the Board, none of whom has an expertise in the field, cannot be an adequate substitute.

It was the contention of the Dean of Social Work that very careful consideration had been given to all of the appellant's complaints about his second practicum and that there was therefore nothing to be gained by having the case heard by the appeal body. However, the Constitution is clear. The appellant is entitled to a hearing by the duly constituted appeal body of the Faculty. The appeal must therefore be allowed.

Secretary
January 21st, 1987

Chairman