

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

REPORT NUMBER 121 OF THE ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 11, 1988

To the Academic Board,
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it held a hearing on Tuesday, October 11th, 1988 at 9:30 a.m., in Room 23, Convocation Hall, at which the following were present:

Professor J. B. Dunlop (In the Chair)
Ms. K. Pearson
Professor F. A. Sherk
Professor V. Smith
Mrs. J. Uyede

Ms. Irene Birrell, Secretary

In Attendance:

Ms. *R₂* the appellant
Mr. Alex Waugh, Vice-Principal and Registrar, Woodsworth College
Ms. Susan Isbister, Woodsworth College

THE FOLLOWING ITEM IS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION

At a meeting on October 11th, 1988, the Academic Appeals Committee heard the appeal of *Ms. R₂* from a decision of the Petitions Committee of Woodsworth College denying her request for a further deferral of the final examination in WDW103Y, Organizational Theory, or for late withdrawal without academic penalty. The exam had been deferred once for medical reasons from the spring examination period in May to the summer examination period in August. She was informed on June 10th of the exam date. The decision of the Committee is that the appeal should be dismissed.

The appellant, a student in the Business Certificate Program, was taking EC0100Y in the summer as well as studying for the deferred examination in WDW103Y. On August 9th she decided that she would jeopardize her chances in EC0100Y if she tried to write both. Hence she petitioned again. The petition was refused and the appellant informed on August 12th. The appellant did not write WDW103Y and is repeating it this year as WDW206Y. She has, of course, to pay the fee again.

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Mr. Waugh, Registrar of Woodsworth, told the Committee that taking two full subjects in the summer was difficult, but that the appellant could have withdrawn from ECO100Y until July 22nd. The appellant offered no reason for a further deferral other than that she was having difficulty with the two courses. Woodsworth, he said, did not regard this as a valid reason for deferral.

The appellant gave evidence that the course instructor had told her when she first discussed deferral with him that he would probably be asked to set a special exam at a later date in the spring. This was not, however, a common practice and did not occur. The appellant still had two months to prepare once she knew the date of the August exam and the instructor's erroneous statement could not be seen as causing any prejudice to the appellant's opportunity to prepare for the August date.

The rule that one must withdraw by a certain date or, in the absence of special circumstances arising thereafter, write the examination is a rule to be found in most faculties of the University and the Committee is bound by it. The appellant made no move to withdraw until virtually the eve of the summer examination. The circumstances did not justify granting the request at that point.

Appeal dismissed.

Secretary
November 1st, 1988

Chairman