

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

REPORT NUMBER 128 OF THE ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE

November 7th, 1989

To the Academic Board,
University of Toronto

Your Committee reports that it held a hearing on Tuesday, November 7th, 1989 at 1:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Simcoe Hall, at which the following were present:

Professor J. B. Dunlop (Chairman)
Mr. R. Behboodi
Professor J. Reibetanz
Professor V. G. Smith
Mr. A. Waugh

Ms Irene Birrell, Secretary

In Attendance:

Ms *M.*
Professor E. Irwin, Associate Dean, Academic, Scarborough College

At a meeting on 7 November, 1989 the Academic Appeals Committee heard the appeal of *Ms M.* from a decision of the Subcommittee on Academic Appeals of Scarborough College dismissing her appeal for deferral of suspension. The decision of the Committee is that the appeal must be dismissed.

The appellant was suspended for one year at the end of the 1988-89 winter session in accordance with the regulation requiring the maintenance of a cumulative grade point average of 1.5. After two winter sessions, 1987-88 and 1988-89, the appellant's cumulative GPA was .94. In her first year she had failed one subject and achieved D- grades on three of the other four. Her sessional GPA was .82. In her second year she failed no courses but achieved only a D- on the course she had failed the year before. Her sessional GPA was 1.06.

The appellant wished to be re-instated in January 1990 instead of June so that she could take courses not normally offered in the summer session. She said they were needed for the three-year programme in economics. This programme appeared to be a completely unrealistic goal in light of the grade admission requirement and the appellant's lack of success in economics courses to date. When this point was made at the hearing the appellant stated her intention to change to a geography programme as she believed that she could do better at that subject. In her one geography course in 1987-88, however, she achieved a D-. But it was physical geography, she said, and she was more interested in human geography.

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The regulation governing suspension cannot be ignored. It appears to the Committee that far from there being extenuating circumstance that might permit an exception to be made, the appellant's case is the paradigm case for suspension. The appellant has performed inadequately and still seems not to understand her problem. She should be seeking counselling from the Registrar's Office to help her find an area and an approach which might hold some prospect of success. Like the Scarborough Subcommittee we were not convinced that it would be useful for the appellant to continue until she had reappraised her academic goals in depth.

The appeal is dismissed.

Secretary
November 16th, 1989

Chairman