

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

REPORT NUMBER 150 OF THE ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE

March 25th, 1992

To the Academic Board,
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it held a hearing on Wednesday, March 25th, 1992 at 10:00 a.m. in the Flavelle Room, 78 Queen's Park Crescent, at which the following were present:

Professor J. B. Dunlop, Chairman
Professor J. Brailey
Mrs. D. Hellebust
Professor K. G. McNeill
Mr. C. Walker

Ms S. Girard, Secretary

In Attendance:

Ms C.F., the appellant
Professor D. E. Moggridge, for the Faculty

At a meeting on March 25th, 1992 the Academic Appeals Committee heard the appeal of C.F. from a decision of the Academic Appeals Board of the Faculty of Arts and Science. The appellant, a student at Erindale College, wished to write two make-up tests in ECO320Y. The first test was missed because she did not know the date on which it was to be written. Illness had prevented her writing the third test. The appellant was allowed by the Academic Appeals Board of the Faculty to make up the test on which she was ill but was refused permission to write the one she had missed through lack of knowledge as to the date.

The Committee's decision is that the appeal against the refusal to permit the appellant to write the first test should be allowed.

The Academic Appeals Board's letter to the appellant stated that "The insurmountable obstacle was that the other students in the course all seemed to be aware when the test would be held". It did not believe the instructor violated the University's Grading Practices Policy in announcing the test in class three weeks ahead and writing the time and date on the board (November 1st).

Whether this particular announcement of an assignment in class meets the University policy requiring the "methods by which student performance shall be evaluated...the relative weights of these methods in relation to the overall score, and *the timing of each major evaluation*" (italics added) to be published, the Faculty has a statement in its Handbook under the heading "Announcing Marking Schemes" requiring that the students be informed no later than the last date to enroll in courses "of all term assignments, *the date that each is due,*" (italics added) lateness penalties and the weight of each assignment. Under the University policy a faculty is

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entitled to impose a more stringent requirement and the Faculty of Arts and Science appears to have done so.

It is not clear on what evidence the Board concluded that all other students knew when the test would be held but in any event it was in our view irrelevant in light of the instructor's lack of compliance with the stated requirement.

The appeal is allowed. The appellant may write the two make-up tests. Mutually convenient times can no doubt be left to the appellant and the Faculty but if any difficulty should arise the Committee will be prepared to assist in settling this issue.

S. Girard
Secretary

Professor J. B. Dunlop
Chairman

March 31st, 1992