

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

REPORT NUMBER 172 OF THE ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE

February 28th, 1994

To the Academic Board,
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it held a hearing on Monday, February 28th, 1994 at 11:30 a.m. in the Flavelle Room, Faculty of Law, 78 Queen's Park Crescent at which the following were present:

Professor A. Weinrib (Vice-Chairman)
Professor D.I. Galbraith
Mr. Hart Heller
Professor M. Moskovits
Mr. M. Teper

In attendance:

Mr. R.P., the appellant
Mr. F. DeLuca, Downtown Legal Services, counsel for the appellant
Mr. D. Perry, Registrar, Scarborough College

This is an appeal by Mr. R.P. to the Academic Appeals Committee of the Governing Council from a decision at Scarborough College denying his petition to have a one-year suspension lifted as of September 1993. In the alternative the appellant asks that the suspension be lifted as of January 1st, 1994.

Mr. R.P. enrolled in Scarborough College as a full-time student for the 1990-91 academic year. During that time his parents' business was greatly affected by the recession, and Mr. R.P. took on part-time work in order to help his family economically. His grade point average for the 1990-91 academic session was 0.87. The College then placed the student on probation. In order to be in good standing, students must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 1.6. During the 1991-92 academic session, Mr. R.P. was President of the Philipino-Canadian Association. During that year he took one full-course and one half-course. His sessional grade point average for 1991-92 was 1.7, and his cumulative GPA over the two years was 1.06. To avoid suspension, students on probation must maintain a sessional grade point average of at least 1.6 in every session until their cumulative grade point average rises to 1.6. When it rises to 1.6, the student is then again in good standing.

In the 1992-93 session, Mr. R.P. registered for a full (5 course) academic load. His sessional GPA was 1.47 and his cumulative GPA rose to 1.24. As a result, Mr. R.P. was suspended for the 1993-94 academic session. Mr. DeLuca, the student's counsel, argued that Mr. R.P.'s ongoing responsibilities in the Philipino-Canadian Association took up more time than he thought they would during the first term of the 1992-93 academic year. It was the responsibility of the Past President, which Mr. R.P. became in late 1992, to maintain continuity and ensure a smooth transition to the new executive of the association. At the same time, the family economic

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situation deteriorated even further and the student felt compelled to give his family some of his OSAP money to help support them. As a result, he was also forced to work part-time during the academic year.

During the 1993-94 academic year, Mr. R.P. has audited or is auditing the equivalent of three half-courses at Scarborough College. Several of the instructors in the courses which the student is auditing have written letters of support for him in terms of the work he has done in the courses and the grades he would receive if his suspension were lifted.

It is clear that the student took on too many community and work activities to allow him to handle his academic programme successfully. This committee appreciates that the economic circumstances have now changed for the student's family and that he is no longer as involved with his extra-curricular activities. However, the Committee has decided that it will not take into account the student's work in the courses which he is auditing this academic year. Students cannot improve their positions on appeals merely by auditing courses while they are under suspension. We think the decision of the Scarborough College Sub-committee on Standing of July 8, 1993 denying the petition was correct, as was that of the Sub-committee on Academic Appeals upholding that decision. Reversing those decisions would involve undercutting the academic standards of the College. There are a large number of students who work at least part-time, and although this is not an ideal situation, students must arrange their academic and extra-academic affairs to meet the standards of their programmes. We do not view the circumstances of Mr. R.P.'s case as one which requires intervention on our part.

Appeal dismissed.

Secretary

Professor A. Weinrib
Vice-Chairman

March 3rd, 1994