

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

REPORT NUMBER 175 OF THE ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE

March 28th, 1994

To the Academic Board,
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it held a hearing on Monday, March 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 B. Brown
Ms P. Cross
Professor J. Mayhall
Professor E. Mendelsohn

In attendance:

Mr. C.G., the appellant
Mr. M. Zwegers, Downtown Legal Services, counsel for the appellant
Ms E. Ishibashi, for the Faculty of Arts and Science

This is an appeal by Mr. C.G. from a decision of the Academic Appeals Board of the Faculty of Arts and Science denying an appeal of the decision of the Committee on Standing which had refused to lift the one year suspension imposed on him at the end of the 1992 Winter Session.

The appellant was suspended for one year after his sessional GPA for the 1992 Winter Session was 1.29, and his cumulative GPA was 1.06. The appellant argued that the events which ultimately led to his one-year suspension started in December 1991 when his house was broken into and robbed. He was tied up and held at gun point. This incident lasted for about a half hour. He said that the resulting stress prevented him from concentrating on his studies. When he was alone in the house and elsewhere he was often nervous and could not focus on his work. He said he became paranoid about the possibility of being robbed again. He did not seek counseling because he felt uncomfortable discussing the situation with a total stranger. The appellant claims that the affect of the robbery in December 1991 influenced his results as late as April 1993 when the suspension took effect.

Despite the suspension, the student was allowed to take GGR326F during the 1993 Summer Session since he had already registered in that course before he was notified of the suspension. In that course, he received a B- mark.

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The student had a cumulative GPA of 0.61 in the three and one-half (3 1/2) courses he took prior to the incident. One of his explanations for that performance was that, having received a B average with little effort in high school and hence being admitted to the University of Toronto, he did not realize the need to adapt his study habits to meet the higher demands of the University. At the time the suspension came into effect, there was, in fact, no evidence that he was anything but a very marginal student at this University. The B- in the course he took last summer, viewed either in isolation or along with the rest of his record, does not help this Committee decide in his favour. We look at academic appeals from the vantage point of the events which lead to the appeals. The suspension was completely justified.

Appeal dismissed.

Secretary

Professor A. Weinrib
Vice-Chairman

April 14th, 1994