

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

**THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

**REPORT NUMBER 220 OF THE ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE**

**May 15, 1997**

To the Academic Board,  
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it held a hearing on Thursday, May 15, 1997, at which the following were present:

Before: Professor Edmund R. Alexander, Acting Chairman  
Mr. Eric Brock  
Mrs. Margo Coleman  
Professor John Mayhall  
Professor Kenneth Shulman

Ms Rosanne Lopers-Sweetman, Secretary  
Academic Appeals Committee

In attendance: Mr. G.L., the Appellant  
Mr. Jeff Brown, DLS, counsel for the Appellant  
Professor Michael Donnelly, Associate Dean, Social Sciences  
Mr. Damon Chevrier, Associate Registrar, Woodsworth College

Mr. G.L. transferred from the University of Waterloo to Woodsworth College at the University of Toronto in September, 1993. During his time at Waterloo and Toronto, Mr. G.L. suffered from chronic health problems which appeared to affect his academic performance at both institutions. Mr. G.L. took courses at Woodsworth during the 1993-94 Winter session, the 1994 Summer Session, the 1994-95 Winter Session, the 1995 Summer Session, and the 1995-96 Winter Session. After the 1995 Summer Session his cumulative Grade-Point Average at Woodsworth was 1.18 and he was placed on academic probation. After the 1995-96 Winter Session, his sessional Grade-Point Average was 0.84 and his cumulative Grade-Point Average was 1.02. As a result of this poor performance, Mr. G.L. was suspended for the 1996-97 academic year. Mr. G.L. appealed his one-year suspension to the Committee on Standing of Woodsworth College. His appeal was dismissed on August 2, 1996. The Committee on Standing affirmed its dismissal of his appeal on September 23, 1996 and Mr. G.L.'s further appeal to the Academic Appeals Board of the Faculty of Arts and Science was dismissed on December 17, 1996.

Mr. G.L. appealed to the Academic Appeals Committee of Governing Council. At a hearing held on May 15, 1997, the Academic Appeals Committee dismissed the appeal. The

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Committee accepted Mr. G.L.'s evidence that he suffered from chronic health problems throughout his academic career. In addition, the Committee accepted his evidence that during the 1995-96 Winter Session these health problems were exacerbated by a number of family problems. However, despite his health and family difficulties, which had been evident for a number of years, Mr. G.L. did not withdraw from courses in which he had received poor term marks in the 1995-96 Winter Session. He chose to write the final examinations in all his courses, with disastrous results. He did not seek counseling from advisors at Woodsworth College either following his placement on probation in the Summer of 1995, or prior to the course withdrawal dates in the Winter of 1996, or prior to writing the final examinations in the Spring of 1996. He did not seek advice from the College until after he had received his final results in June, 1996. If he had sought advice earlier he would likely have been advised to withdraw from one or more of the 1995-96 courses and/or to seek permission to defer writing one or more of his exams for health reasons. In the end, Mr. G.L. must take full responsibility for his present situation.

Rosanne Lopers-Sweetman  
Secretary

Edmund R. Alexander  
Acting Chairman

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