



Misconduct and Academic Appeal Cases July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022

Student Misconduct

The policy on Student Discipline, approved by University Council and University Senate in 2012, provides a framework of principles for dealing with student misconduct in both academic and non-academic matters.

Academic misconduct

Number of academic misconduct cases heard by colleges:

123 allegations involving 156 students

(Previous year: 200 allegations involving 199 students)

Breakdown of allegations (an allegation could fall into more than one category below):

Plagiarism: 46

Cheating on an assignment or final exam using unpermitted services of a commercial website (such as Chegg): 61

Other types of academic misconduct: 74

Number of students found guilty:

145 students

(Previous year: 152)

Breakdown of students found guilty:

Plagiarism: 44

Cheating on an assignment or final exam using unpermitted services of a commercial website (such as Chegg): 34

Other types of academic misconduct: 46

*note that one student may be guilty of more than one instance of academic misconduct

Penalties:

Expulsions: 2

Suspensions: 6

Other penalties:

- In most other cases, the student was given zero in the assignment or exam, plus an additional penalty of 5% to 30% off the final grade
- A number of instances where student were required to take training in ethics, communication, writing, and/or academic integrity
- A number of instances where a student was required to complete an essay on plagiarism or academic misconduct
- A number of instances where a student was required to retake the course in which the misconduct occurred

- One instance where a student was provided a formal reprimand
- Two instances where a student was required to write a letter of apology

*note that one student may receive more than one type of sanction/penalty

Additionally, starting January 1, 2017, the *Regulations on Student Academic Misconduct* have a process for recording informal resolutions for complaints of academic misconduct. There were 235 informal resolutions to incidents of academic misconduct. Of these, 136 were related to instances of plagiarism, 5 were related to cheating on an assignment or examination using a banned website, and 112 were other forms of cheating.

Academic misconduct appeals

Nineteen appeals of a college decision on academic misconduct were received by the Governance Office under the *Regulations on Student Academic Misconduct* and thirteen went forward to appeal hearings. Ten of the appeals were dismissed by the appeal board and the sanctions imposed by the original hearing board remained in effect. In one case, the appeal board supported the appeal and overturned the decision and sanction imposed by the original hearing board; in another case, the appeal board supported the appeal on limited grounds and ordered that a new hearing board be struck at the college level to re-hear the case; and in the final case, the appeal board supported the appeal on limited grounds, but determined that the decision and outcomes remained appropriate.

Non-academic misconduct

Formal complaints of non-academic misconduct were filed with the Governance Office against twelve student between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 (compared to forty the previous year). Two complaints were dismissed without being forward for a response and one complaint is being held in abeyance. Two complaints were withdrawn prior to a hearing or alternative dispute resolution process being conducted.

Of the seven remaining complaints that were handled addressed through processes under the *Standard of Student Conduct in Non-Academic Matters*, three were related to violations of USask's Covid-19 procedures and proffering false identification and/or documentation; one was related to assault, sexual assault, verbal abuse, intimidation, and bullying, one was related to harm and threats of harm as well as significant disruption to university activities; one was related to verbal and non-verbal aggression, bullying, intimidation, verbal abuse, misrepresentation to obtain goods or services, and significant disruption to university activities, and one was related to a violation of the university's discrimination and harassment prevention policy.

All complaints proceeded to a formal hearing of the Senate Hearing Board. Three hearings resulted in expulsion of the respondent and three resulted in a suspension of between four months and one year. Two of the suspensions had associated conduct probation to be imposed when the student returns to USask and two had required training/education to be completed prior to returning. The remaining case is still ongoing.

Academic appeals

University procedures for academic appeals provide for appeals from students who believe they have been disadvantaged in their academic standing by an unfair judgment of their work or by unfair college or university processes.

The Governance received two appeals between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022. Both appeals were dismissed.