

FOR INFORMATION

Committee Name: Governance Committee, University Council

Date: June 11, 2026

Presented by: Susan Detmer, Chair, Governance Committee

Subject: Student Appeals and Misconduct, 2025-2026

BACKGROUND

The Governance Committee has previously requested that the University Secretary report on the nature and number of student appeals under Council's regulations on Student Appeals in Academic Matters, as well as appeals of decisions related to academic misconduct.

SUMMARY OF APPEALS

1. Student Appeals in Academic Matters

From May 1, 2025, to April 30, 2026, there were seventeen applications for appeals in academic matters submitted to the University Secretary. Ten did not proceed to hearings because the appellants did not identify valid grounds of appeal. Three appeals proceeded to hearings before a university appeal board. Of those three appeals, one appeal was dismissed by the appeal board, in one case the appellant was successful, and in one case the appellant was successful on one ground of appeal. Three appeals remain active and are proceeding to hearings before a university appeal board. One appeal was withdrawn by the appellant.

These numbers represent an increase in the number of appeals filed. There were seven applications for appeal in 2024-25 and two applications for appeal in 2023-24.

Appeals are becoming increasingly complex, often involving multiple layers of concerns and challenges between the parties. There has also been an increase in appeals involving allegations that accommodation policies were not properly followed, as well as allegations or concerns relating to discrimination.

2. Appeals of Decisions Related to Academic Misconduct

From May 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026, there were ten applications for appeals of decisions of college hearing boards under the Student Academic Misconduct Regulations. Of the ten applications received, one appeal is proceeding before a university appeal board. Eight applications were dismissed without a hearing because the applicants did not identify valid grounds of appeal. One appeal was withdrawn by the appellant.

The number of appeals is slightly lower than in the previous two years. In both 2024-25 and 2023-24, there were fourteen applications for appeals of decisions of college-level hearing boards filed with the University Secretary.

Under Council's regulations on student misconduct, allegations of academic misconduct are heard first at the college level. In a small number of cases, including at least two this year, matters were redirected back to the appropriate college-level process where the university-level appeal process was not yet appropriate. Since September, the Governance Office received approximately 73 inquiries relating to student conduct and appeals.