



Misconduct and Academic Appeal Cases 2016-17

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

2016-17 statistics:

Number of academic misconduct cases heard by colleges:

48 allegations involving 49 students

(Previous year: 43 allegations involving 44 students)

Number of students found guilty:

43 students

(Previous year: 36)

Breakdown of allegations:

Plagiarism: 24

Other types of academic misconduct: 19

Penalties:

Expulsions: one (under appeal at the university-level)

Suspensions: three

Other penalties:

- In most cases the student was given zero in the assignment or exam, plus an additional penalty of 4% to 15% off the final grade.
- One instance where a grade of 50% was assigned for the course
- Once instance where a grade on 0 was assigned for the course
- Two instances where the student was required to repeat the class/practicum
- One instance where the student was required to write a letter of apology to the student whose work they had plagiarized
- One instance where the student was required to develop a presentation on Academic Integrity
- Two instances where a student was required to discontinued from their academic program
- One rewrite of assignment
- One instance where a student was required to take a workshop on proper referencing techniques
- Two instances where a formal letter of reprimand were placed on the students' file

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 48 informal resolutions to incidents of academic misconduct. There of these 27 were related to instances of plagiarism.

Academic misconduct appeals

Four appeals of college decisions were received by the University Secretary under the *Regulations on Student Academic Misconduct*. All four appeals went forward to an appeal hearing. Two appeals were dismissed and two were upheld. In both cases, the university-level appeal board ordered that a new college-level hearing board be struck to re-hear the case.

Additionally, a tribunal was convened under these regulations to review the wording of the sanctions imposed by the original hearing board.

Non-academic misconduct

A total of fifteen formal complaints were lodged with the University Secretary (compared to nine cases the previous year).

Two of the complaints related to failure to comply with sanctions imposed by a previous hearing board, two related to assault; five threats of harm or actual harm by means of verbal and non-verbal aggression, harassment, intimidation and/or bullying; four related to causing a significant disruption by creating a dangerous situation and abuse or misuse of university facilities; one related to threats of harm or actual harm to members of the university community, assault, and breach of existing behavioural agreement; and one related the creating a dangerous situation.

Two complaint were ultimately withdrawn by the complainants before proceeding to a hearing.

Two complaints were sent to an alternative dispute resolution team (ADR). One was successfully resolved through the ADR process. One complaint sent to ADR was not successful and a formal hearing will be arranged should the student return to the U of S.

Eleven cases went to a formal hearing of the Senate Hearing Board. In all eleven cases, the students were found to have violated the Standard. The outcomes were as follows:

- 2 year suspension with conditions for return
- three instances of anger management and conflict resolution
- four instance of conduct probation,
- two instances of a reflective essay
- seven instances of letters of apology
- six instances of required volunteer service
- three instances of a letter of reprimand
- one instance of training in gender issues, emotional intelligence, self-management and/or conflict resolution
- one instance of a required essay relating directly to the violation of the sanction

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 Office of the University Secretary received seven appeals between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. Three of the appeals were dismissed by the University Appeal Board determined that the assessment or faculty action had been based on substantial academic judgement. Three appeals were upheld. In all cases it was determined that the college had not followed its own procedural regulations. In two cases, the remedy was to provide the student with a retroactive withdrawal and a tuition refund for the course. In the other case, the remedy was to order a new college-level hearing. The final appeal is being held in abeyance pending the outcome of an investigation under the Responsible Conduct of Research Policy.