



Misconduct and Academic Appeal Cases 2015-16

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

2015-16 statistics:

Number of academic misconduct cases heard by colleges:

43 allegations involving 44 students

(Previous year: 71 allegations involving 60 students)

Number of students found guilty:

36 students

(Previous year: 50)

Breakdown of allegations:

Plagiarism: 24

Other types of academic misconduct: 19

Penalties:

Expulsions: one

Suspensions: six

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.
- Three instances where the student was required to write an essay on plagiarism or academic misconduct
- One instance where a grade of 50% was assigned for the course
- One instance where a grade of 0 was assigned for the course
- One rewrite of assignment
- One grade of fail for the relevant course
- Two instances where a formal letter of reprimand were placed on the students' file

Academic misconduct appeals

Four appeals of college decisions were received by the University Secretary under the *Regulations on Student Academic Misconduct*. Two submissions did not meet the permissible grounds for appeal and were denied. Two appeals went forward to an appeal hearing and both appeals were denied.

Non-academic misconduct

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

One complaint was dismissed by the University Secretary as not falling under the scope of the *Standard of Student Conduct in Non-Academic Matters*. One complaint was ultimately withdrawn by the complainant.

Four complaints were sent to an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) team and three were successfully resolved. A formal hearing is being scheduled for the complaint that could not be successfully resolved through ADR.

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

- 1 year suspension
- 6 month suspension with conditions to be met prior to return
- One instance where sanctions were community service, sensitivity training, a formal apology, and conduct probation

One appeal of a decision of a Senate hearing board was received. The appeal was upheld, and the sanctions imposed by the original hearing board were lifted.

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 heard five appeals between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. Two were dismissed when the University Appeal Board determined that the assessment or faculty action had been based on substantive academic judgement and was not affected by unfair procedures. Three appeals were upheld. In one case it was determined that the college had not followed approved policies and procedures of the university dealing with accommodation of students with disabilities. The remedy was for the student to be permitted to retake the courses at issue and be provided an additional year in the program. In the remaining two cases, it was determined that the colleges had failed to follow the procedural regulations of the relevant college or the university dealing with assessment of student work or performance. Remedies included having the student meet with the Graduate Advisory Committee regarding their standing in the program and providing the student with the opportunity to write deferred examinations in three classes.