

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT AND ACADEMIC APPEAL CASES 2009-11

Academic Misconduct

The University Council Academic Dishonesty policy was replaced by Regulations on Student Academic Misconduct in January, 2010. The revised regulations allowed faculty either to resolve academic misconduct through a new informal procedure allowing for reduced mark or resubmission, or to seek formal sanction for academic misconduct through a College hearing process.

2009-10 statistics:

of college hearing cases: 14 (5 under the new policy)

where student was found guilty: 13

Breakdown: Plagiarism: 5 Other types of cheating: 8

Penalties: Expulsions: 2

In both cases, these expulsions were for falsifying documents.

Four of the cases were appealed to the university level; the university hearing board confirmed the college penalty in all cases.

2010-11 statistics:

of college hearing cases: 26*

where student was found guilty: 24

Breakdown: plagiarism 11 Other types of cheating 15

Penalties ranged from zero in assignment and reduction of final grade, to two suspensions and one expulsion.

Two of the suspended or expelled students asked to appeal the college decision to the university level. This was denied because there were no grounds for appeal.

Analysis:

In previous years, colleges usually handled between 30 to 40 plagiarism cases annually (mostly in Arts & Science) and an additional 20 to 25 cases of other kinds of cheating such as bringing notes or electronic devices into an exam, taking a copy of the exam, and submitting the same essay in two different classes.

In 2009-10, there was an extraordinarily low number of academic misconduct cases reported, likely due to the ending of the previous policy and the introduction of the new policy in mid-year. Uncertainty about implementing these procedural changes reduced the number of cases reported to the college and university.

In 2010-11, as faculty became more experienced with using the informal and formal procedures under the new policy, the number of cases reported for a college hearing increased. However, the reporting of plagiarism cases was much reduced compared to historical levels, likely because many such cases are now being handled through the informal procedure.

*as of October 6, 2011. Statistics from one college not yet received

Academic appeals

The Student Appeals in Academic Matters policy provides a formal mechanism for students to complain about unfair treatment leading to a poor grade or other academic assessment..

In 2009-10, there were four appeals under this policy and three went forward to a hearing. In 2010-11, there were seven appeals under this policy and six went forward to a hearing.