



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT AND ACADEMIC APPEAL CASES 2011-12

Academic Misconduct

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

This policy now includes the university's Regulations on Student Academic Misconduct, which were brought into force in January, 2010. These revised regulations allowed faculty the option of dealing with student academic misconduct through an informal procedure for resubmission of an assignment or essay, or through a formal College hearing procedure.

2011-12 statistics:

of college hearing cases: 63 charges involving 58 students

where student was found guilty: 39 students have been found guilty; 19 cases are still being dealt with.

Breakdown: Plagiarism: 26 Other types of cheating: 13

Penalties:

Expulsion: One expulsion (graduate student, second offense)

Suspension: Three one-term suspensions
One three-term suspension
One two-year suspension

Other: 31 zero in assignment/exam; 5 to 15 per cent penalty off the final grade
One letter of reprimand
One zero on entire course

Three requests were made to appeal the college decision to the university level. One appeal was heard and the university hearing board confirmed that the college procedures were fair.

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 requests were made to appeal the college decision to the university level. These were denied because they were found to be without grounds for appeal.

Analysis:

Prior to the 2010 policy change, 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.

As faculty become more experienced with using the informal and formal procedures under the new policy, the number of cheating cases reported for a college hearing has been reduced compared to historical levels, likely because many plagiarism cases are now being handled directly by faculty through the informal procedure.

Academic appeals

University procedures for academic appeals provide means by which students who feel they have been disadvantaged in their academic standing by an unfair judgment of their work or by unfair procedures to appeal the outcome of the assessment.

Under the University Council procedures for dealing with student appeal, the Office of the University Secretary dealt with six appeals in 2011-12 and five went forward to a hearing. Four were dismissed and one appeal was granted to permit the student to retake the program. In 2010-11, there were seven appeals under these procedures and six went forward to a hearing.

In January, 2012, University Council approved an overall policy on Student Appeals of Evaluation, Grading and Academic Standing which lays out the principles which the university follows in dealing with student appeals. Procedures for dealing with student appeals remain similar to those used in the past.