



## **Misconduct and Academic Appeal Cases 2012-13**

### **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**

#### **2012-13 statistics:**

Number of academic misconduct cases heard by colleges:

35 allegations involving 34 students

(Previous year: 63 allegations involving 58 students)

Number of students found guilty:

29 students

Breakdown of allegations:

Plagiarism: 19 Other types of cheating: 16

Penalties:

Expulsion: One expulsion (falsification of transcripts for admission)

Suspensions: none

Other penalties:

- In most cases the student was given zero in the assignment or exam, plus an additional penalty of 5 to 15 per cent off the final grade.
- One letter of reprimand
- One zero on entire course

Two appeals were made to the Office of the University Secretary to appeal the college finding of academic misconduct. One finding was overturned and student's essay was resubmitted and remarked. One finding of plagiarism in a thesis and expulsion was confirmed.

#### **Analysis:**

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

### **Non-academic misconduct**

Ten formal complaints of non-academic misconduct were lodged with the Office of the University Secretary (compared to eight complaints the previous year). One complaint was sent

to an alternative dispute resolution team (ADR) and was successfully resolved. One resulted in a Presidential Suspension which was not appealed. Eight cases went to formal hearings of the Senate Hearing Board. All of these students were found to have violated the standard for student conduct. The outcomes included: letters of apology to complainants and fellow students; sensitivity/anger management training; reimbursement for thefts; writing essays relating to the problem behaviour; conduct probation; and bans from specific university facilities and campus locations.

None of these cases were appealed.

### **Academic appeals**

University procedures for academic appeals provide for appeals from students who feel they have been disadvantaged in their academic standing by an unfair judgment of their work or by unfair college or university processes. 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. Two forms used by departments for mark review and exam re-read have been consolidated into a single form. As well, the Governance Committee of Council no longer reviews appeal applications to determine whether they should proceed to hearing; all appeals now proceed to a hearing.

The Office of the University Secretary received seven appeals in 2012-13. Six 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. One appeal was granted to raise a student grade due to lack of clarity in the course syllabus regarding how the mark would be calculated.