



2 May 2014

To: Vancouver Senate

From: Committee on Appeals on Academic Standing

Re: Annual Report (1 May 2013 – 30 April 2014) (information)

Senate has delegated to the *Senate Committee on Appeals on Academic Standing* the authority to hear and dispose of student appeals from decisions of Faculties in matters of academic standing. The Committee shall allow an appeal where it is found that the decision of the Faculty was arrived at through improper or unfair procedures, and that as a result, a wrong decision on the merits has or may have been arrived at. However, the Committee has no jurisdiction where the sole question raised in an appeal turns on the exercise of academic judgment by a Faculty. The decision of the Committee on an appeal is a final disposition of that appeal. The Vancouver Senate has conferred on the Committee the power of making final decisions pursuant to section 37(1)(b) of the *University Act* (reference: *UBC Calendar, Academic Regulations, Senate Appeals on Academic Standing, sub-section 2.2*).

Students may also appeal to the Committee the refusal of the Registrar to extend the timeline for accepting an appeal, namely within 10 business days of being informed in writing of the Faculty's final decision.

As per section 40(a) of the Rules and Procedures of the Vancouver Senate, the Committee is required to make an annual report to Senate, including the number of appeals heard, their disposition, and the general nature of the appeals.

Since last reporting to Senate in May 2013, ten (10) appeals proceeded to Committee hearings (as compared with 9 in the prior reporting period), of which three (3) were allowed and seven (7) were dismissed.

In addition to the ten (10) appeals concluded, which are summarized below, the Committee has been advised that in the past year an additional fifteen (15) appeals were presented to the Registrar, of which five (5) were resolved prior to a Committee hearing; five (5) were withdrawn by the appellant prior to a Committee hearing; one (1) was dismissed by the Registrar due to lack of timely prosecution and four (4) are in progress and are expected to be heard by the Committee in the upcoming weeks.



Appeals Allowed

- The student appealed a decision of the Faculty requiring the student's withdrawal due to the student's failure to meet program requirements. The Committee allowed the appeal on the basis that the Faculty's decision was arrived at through improper or unfair procedures and that as a result a wrong decision on the merits had been arrived at. The Committee quashed the decision of the Faculty and send the matter back to the Faculty to be dealt with in accordance with proper procedures.
- The student appealed a Faculty decision regarding academic standing in three courses. The Committee allowed the appeal on the basis that the Faculty's decision was arrived at through improper or incorrect procedures as it failed to consider information that ought properly to have been considered. The courses under appeal were removed from the appellant's academic transcript.
- The student appealed a decision of the Faculty concerning failed standing in the final examination of the course, thereby resulting in failed standing for the course. The Committee held that the Faculty's decision was not based on unfair or improper procedures but felt that some remedy was warranted given the circumstances. The course was removed from the appellant's academic transcript and the appellant was required to retake the course in a subsequent academic session.

Appeals Dismissed

- The student appealed a decision of the Faculty requiring the student's withdrawal from the program of study for failing to meet program requirements. The Committee dismissed the appeal and held that the Faculty's decision was not based on improper or unfair procedures, nor was there consideration of any information that ought not to have been considered, nor was there a failure to consider information that ought properly to have been considered.
- The student appealed a Faculty concerning failed standing in a course. The Committee dismissed the appeal and held that the Faculty's decision was not based on improper or unfair procedures, nor was there consideration of any information that ought not to have been considered, nor was there a failure to consider information that ought properly to have been considered.
- The student appealed a decision of the Faculty requiring the student's withdrawal from the program of study due to the student's failure to meet program requirements. The Committee dismissed the appeal and held that the Faculty's decision was not based on improper or unfair procedures, nor was there consideration of any information that ought not to have been considered, nor was there a failure to consider information that ought properly to have been considered.
- The student appealed a Faculty concerning failed standing in two courses. The Committee dismissed the appeal and held that the Faculty's decision was not based on improper or unfair procedures, nor was there consideration of any



information that ought not to have been considered, nor was there a failure to consider information that ought properly to have been considered.

- The student appealed a decision of the Faculty requiring the student's withdrawal from the program of study due to the student's failure to meet program requirements. The Committee dismissed the appeal and held that the Faculty's decision was not based on improper or unfair procedures, nor was there consideration of any information that ought not to have been considered, nor was there a failure to consider information that ought properly to have been considered.
- The student appealed a decision of the Faculty requiring the student's withdrawal from the program of study due to the student's failure to meet program requirements. The Committee dismissed the appeal and held that the Faculty's decision was not based on improper or unfair procedures, nor was there consideration of any information that ought not to have been considered, nor was there a failure to consider information that ought properly to have been considered.
- The student appealed a decision of the Registrar to deny a request to extend the 10-day time limit to submit a written notice of appeal against a decision of the Faculty concerning the student's academic standing in a course. The Committee dismissed the appeal on the basis that the Registrar appropriately considered the student's extenuating circumstances and arrived at a decision in accordance with the Committee's rules and procedures.

Special thanks are due the well-organized, expeditious, and generally unheralded staff at Enrolment Services and Senate and Curriculum Services, who continue to assist the Committee in its valuable and confidential work.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Lance Rucker, Chair and
Dr. William Dunford, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Appeals on Academic Standing

Members of the Committee, 2013-2014;

Dr. Lance Rucker (Chair)
Dr. William Dunford (Vice-Chair)
Dr. Joe Belanger
Dr. Gwen Chapman
Mr. Casey Chan
Dr. Bikkar S. Lalli
Dr. Peter Leung
Mr. Tom MacLachlan
Ms. Kiran Mahal
Dr. Dan Simunic
Dr. Lawrence Walker