

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Senate Committee on Student Appeals on Academic Discipline
c/o
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30 April 2010

To: Vancouver Senate

From: Senate Committee on Student Appeals on Academic Discipline

Re: **Annual Report to Senate 2009-2010**

Members of the Committee:

- Prof. Bruce MacDougall (Chair)
- Dr. Michael Burgess
- Prof. Bonnie Craig
- Dr. John Dennison
- Mr. William McNulty
- Mr. Clinton Meyers
- Mr. Michael Sami
- Mr. Dipen Thakrar
- Mr. Bryan Tomlinson
- Dr. Mahesh Upadhyaya
- Mr. Des Verma

The Senate Committee on Student Appeals on Academic Discipline is a standing committee of the Vancouver Senate established under section 37(1)(v) of the *University Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c.468. The Committee is the “standing committee in the final appeal for students in matters of academic discipline.” Under section 61(1) of the *Act*, the “president has power to suspend a student and to deal summarily with any matter of student discipline.” Under section 61(2), the President “must promptly report the action of the standing committee established under section 37(1)(v) with a statement of his or her reasons.” Under section 61(3), the “action of the president is final and subject in all cases to an appeal to the Senate.”

Student discipline is governed by the Academic Regulations section of the UBC Calendar. The rules and procedures of the Senate Committee on Student Appeals on Academic Discipline can be found at <http://www.senate.ubc.ca/vancouver/rules.cfm?go=discipline>.

During the period from 1 May 2009 and 30 April 2010, the Senate Committee heard five (5) appeals involving students disciplined by the President on the recommendation of the President's Advisory Committee on Student Discipline. All appeals considered by the Senate Committee were dismissed. The misconduct, the disciplinary actions taken by the President, the nature of the appeals and the decisions of the Senate Committee are as follows:

1. October 2009

The student was disciplined for plagiarizing a term paper. The discipline imposed by the President was a mark of zero in the course, suspension from the University for a period of 8 months and a notation of academic misconduct entered on the student's transcript. The student appealed with respect to the severity of the disciplinary action, namely that the period of suspension was excessive.

Appeal dismissed.



2. December 2009

The student was disciplined for submitting a term paper plagiarized from work submitted by another student for the same course. The discipline imposed by the President was a mark of zero in the course, suspension from the University for a period of 8 months and a notation of academic misconduct entered on the student's transcript. The student appealed with respect to the severity of the disciplinary action.

Appeal dismissed.

3. January 2010

The student was disciplined for non-academic misconduct. The discipline imposed by the President was expulsion from the University and a permanent (non-removable) notation of student misconduct entered on the student's transcript. The student appealed with respect to the severity of the disciplinary action, namely that expulsion from the University was excessive.

Appeal dismissed.

4. February 2010

The student was disciplined for non-academic misconduct. The discipline imposed by the President was a letter of reprimand and a notation of non-academic misconduct entered on the student's transcript. The student appealed the disciplinary action on the basis that the procedure of the President's Advisory Committee on Student Discipline was unfair or operated unfairly and that the discipline imposed by the President was excessive with respect to the transcript notation of non-academic misconduct.

Appeal dismissed.

5. March 2010

The student was disciplined for altering a marked midterm examination and submitting it for re-grading. The discipline imposed by the President was mark of zero in the course, suspension from the University for a period of 8 months and a notation of academic misconduct entered on the student's transcript. The student appealed on the following grounds: that the President incorrectly determined that the student's conduct, whether admitted or as found by the President, constituted misconduct; that there was a breach or unfair application of the University's procedure prior to the President's Committee hearing that was raised before the President's Committee but was not adequately remedied through the President's Committee; that the procedure of the President's Committee was unfair or operated unfairly in that there was bias or lack of independence in the President's Committee or the President's Committee's procedures were unfairly applied or breached; that the President erred in his assessment of the evidence in the President's Committee report; and that the discipline imposed by the President was excessive.

Appeal dismissed.

Respectfully submitted,

Prof. Bruce MacDougall, Chair
Senate Committee on Student Appeals on Academic Discipline