THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Senate Committee on Student Appeals on Academic Discipline
c/o
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6 May 2011

To: Vancouver Senate

From: Senate Committee on Student Appeals on Academic Discipline

Re: **Annual Report to Senate 2010-2011**

Members of the Committee:

- Prof. Bruce MacDougall (Chair)
- Dr. Michael Burgess
- Ms. Cheryle Colombe
- Prof. Bonnie Craig
- Mr. William McNulty
- Mr. Clinten Meyers
- Mr. Joseph Scafe
- Dr. John Stapleton
- Mr. Dipen Thakrar
- 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 2010 and 30 April 2011, the Senate Committee heard six (6) appeals involving students disciplined by the President upon the recommendation of the President's Advisory Committee on Student Discipline. Of the appeals considered by the Senate Committee, one (1) was allowed and five (5) 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. **June 2010**
   The student was disciplined for non-academic misconduct. The discipline imposed by the President was suspension from the University for a period of 12 months, no access to the University campus for the duration of the suspension, no contact with University faculty and staff during the period of suspension and a notation of non-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. **July 2010**
   The student was disciplined for altering an answer on a marked midterm examination and submitting it for re-grading. The discipline imposed by the President was mark of zero in the course, a letter of reprimand and a notation of academic misconduct entered on the student's transcript. The student appealed on the grounds 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 and that the President incorrectly determined that the student's conduct, either admitted or as found by the President, constitutes misconduct or the President incorrectly applied a University policy or procedure.

   Appeal allowed.

3. **September 2010**
   The student was disciplined for plagiarizing two term papers for a course. The discipline imposed by the President was a mark of zero in the course, suspension from the University for a period of 4 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 the mark of zero in the course.

   Appeal dismissed.

4. **October 2010**
   The student was disciplined for falsely reporting that he had not written final examinations for two courses. The discipline imposed by the President was a letter of reprimand 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 the notation of academic misconduct entered on the transcript.

   Appeal dismissed.

5. **November 2010**
   The student was disciplined for altering two marked midterm examinations and submitting them for regarding. The discipline imposed by the President was a mark of zero in the course, suspension from the University for a period of 4 months and a notation of academic misconduct entered in the student's transcript. The student appealed on the grounds that the President erred in his assessment of the evidence in the report of the President's Committee, including any factual inferences made by the President, or the credibility of the student or other witnesses and that the discipline imposed was excessive.

   Appeal dismissed.

6. **January 2011**
   The student was disciplined for plagiarizing a term paper. The discipline imposed was a mark of zero in the course, suspension from the University for a period of 4 months and a mark 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.

Respectfully submitted,

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