

Annual Report on Student Discipline Matters

September 1, 2011 – August 31, 2012

Statistical Summary – Non-academic Discipline Incidents★
(to be reported separately, not included)

Statistical Summary – Academic Dishonesty Incidents★

University Board on Student Discipline ★★

Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals ★★

- ★ **Section 6.1 of Policy S10.03 states:** The Registrar and the Associate Vice-President Students or designate, shall maintain a statistical summary of cases which are handled through their offices each year, and these data shall be included in the Annual Report on Student Discipline Matters.
- ★★ **Section 6.2 of Policy S10.03 states:** In addition to the data in 6.1, the Annual Report on Student Discipline Matters must contain a summary of the UBSD Tribunal's decisions, the President's decisions, SCODA's decisions and the penalties imposed. This report will be accessible to the University community and will be submitted to Senate for information except where the Tribunal, SCODA or the President determines that cases or parts of cases should not be disclosed. The Summary must not disclose the identities of the parties. A set of decisions which does not disclose the identities of the parties shall be maintained in the office of the Secretary of the UBSD and is available for review upon reasonable notice.



SENATE AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate
FROM Kate Ross, Registrar and Executive
Director, Student Enrollment
RE: ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE REPORT 2011-2012

DATE December 13, 2012

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Kate Ross, is written over the date.

This report covers terms from September 2011 to August 2012. The revised Academic Honesty and Student Conduct Policy effective May 2009 requires reporting of academic dishonesty incidents to the Registrar's office.

There are 39 active Academic Integrity Advisors representing programs, departments and faculties coordinated by the Academic Integrity Coordinator in the Registrar's office. The Academic Integrity Advisory Committee reports to the Registrar and 2011-2012 members included: David Paterson (Chair), Lou Hafer, Rob Gordon, Elaine Fairey, Jenny Fiorini, Kate Ross, Jo Hinchliffe, and two student representatives. It meets once each term.

The Academic Integrity Coordinator in the Registrar's office collects and compiles data regarding academic dishonesty cases from units across all three campuses. Twenty-nine of thirty-nine academic units reported incidents.

Between September 2011 and August 2012, 498 incident report forms, representing .01% of all students, were filed in the Registrar's office. Of the 498 reports, 185 were for domestic students and 313 for international visa students. While the year over year comparison for overall incidents has risen by 9%, the percentage increase is the greatest for international-visa students at 63% compared to 53% over the same period last year. Twelve cases involving repeat offenders were identified through the central database and dealt with either by the Registrar or the Academic Head following established policy.

Jo Hinchliffe, the Academic Integrity Coordinator is coordinating a project to improve the university's communication strategies related to academic integrity that will appeal to the student population in general and international students in particular.

An electronic version of the incident report form has been developed by Computing Science and is used not only by FAS but also by Criminology and Philosophy. This format increases the likelihood of reporting by instructors as it is more efficient.

Table 1 below lists the most common types of incidents that occur and Table 2 details the breakdown of penalties assigned. Table 3 looks at the breakdown of incident reports by Faculty.

TABLE 1

Type of Incident:	September 2011- August 2012	September 2010 to August 2011
Plagiarism Examples: - A portion of the final paper was taken, lightly modified and entirely un-credited, from a book - Copied submission from Yahoo!Answers and submitted it as their own work - Portions of final essay and thought piece plagiarized from another student's thesis and a web site without citation	175	211
Cheating on exams or assignments Examples: - Received solutions to several problems during final exam via iPhone - Essay copied from a pay for use essay service called "gradesaver" - Found studying notes in washroom during exam - Shared code with other students and used code found online	277	238
Fraud/Misrepresentation Examples: - Possible bribe attempt/misuse of computer login/security - Missed four labs but asserted they were present and asked for grades - Submission of false medical note	46	7
TOTAL	498	456

TABLE 2

Penalties *Note: Students can receive more than one penalty	September 2011- August 2012	September 2010 to August 2011
Give the student a warning	46	67
Assign a grade penalty less harsh than 'F' for the work	95	75
Impose a failing mark for the work	333	291
Assign a grade less harsh than 'FD' for the course	12	18
Assign a grade of "FD"	28	11
Re-do the work or do supplementary work	20	16
Issue a formal reprimand	8	11

TABLE 3

Faculty	Incident Reports September 2011 to August 2012	Incident Reports September 2010 to August 2011
BUS	17	21
EDUC	11	12
ENV	3	9
FAS	244	168
FASS	152	159
FCAT	15	16
HSCI	5	8
SCI	51	64

December 2012

University Board on Student Discipline

Reporting Period: September 1, 2011 – August 31, 2012

UBSD Membership

Faculty: V. Gordon Rose (Coordinator), Psychology (January 2009 – December 2014)
Anne Macdonald, Business Administration (September 2006 – August 2012)
Kevin Douglas, Psychology (September 2010 – September 2013)
Wanda Cassidy, Education (November 2008 – October 2014)

Students: Kyle Vincent, Graduate, Statistics (September 2010 – September 2011)
Jocelyne Leszczynski, Undergraduate, Communications (October 2011 – May 2012)

*

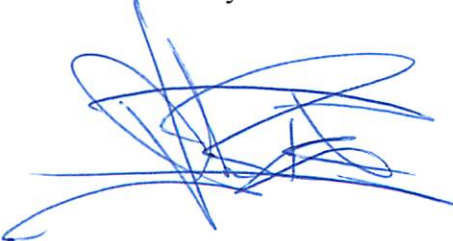
Pasha Tashakor, Graduate, Engineering Science (September 2010 – June 2012)*
Kathryn McKay, Graduate, History (July 2008 – June 2012)
Heather Palis, Undergraduate, Communications (July 2012 – September 2012) *
Chad Johnstone, Undergraduate, Business (May 2012 – April 2013)
Sylvia Gajdics, Graduate, Education (July 2012 – June 2013)
Stacey Robinsmith, Graduate, Education (July 2012 – June 2013)
Robert Ennis, Undergraduate, Criminology (October 2011 – September 2013)

Staff: Harriet Chicoine, Engineering Science (January 2010 – December 2012)
Tracy Bruneau, Computing Science (August 2004 – August 2013)
Donalda Meyers, Education (November 2005 – October 2014)

* These students resigned before the end of their term.

Eight cases concerning academic dishonesty were submitted to the University Board on Student Discipline in the period covered by the report.

A summary of the cases is attached for information.



V. Gordon Rose
Coordinator, University Board on Student Discipline

Student Discipline Summary

File #	Nature of Offence	Outcome
11-9	Academic dishonesty - Cheating on midterm exam by failing to take reasonable measures to protect answers from use by other students.	Student appealed the departmental finding of academic dishonesty. The Tribunal upheld the student's appeal and instructed the department to restore the student's midterm exam mark to its pre-penalty status.
11-10	Academic dishonesty - Plagiarism on a final paper in EDUC 833 that resulted in a failing grade in the course.	Student appealed allegations and disciplinary action. The Tribunal dismissed the student's appeal and confirmed the department's finding that the student had committed academic dishonesty.
11-11	Academic dishonesty - The student contracted out five assignments in three courses over two semesters to freelance developers and received an FD grade in all three courses. The student committed a previous academic offense in the Summer 2010 term and accepted responsibility for actions.	The President accepted the recommendation of the UBSD that the FD grades in CMPT 300, 371 and 383 stand and that the student receive a suspension for six semesters from the University.
12-1	Academic Dishonesty – Student applied for a deferral of exams based on medical documentation that could not be verified. Student received WE (Withdrawal under Extenuating Circumstances) notations previously for six courses based on medical documentation that is now in question. The student's response was there was no academic dishonesty and that she was a victim of fraud.	After receiving a psychological assessment report on the student, the President decided that the student should be suspended from SFU until the student can demonstrate to SFU's satisfaction that she is well enough to return to her studies. The WE grades were removed from her academic transcript and replaced with her original grades. The student is required to repay SFU the partial tuition refund she received as a result of the WE grades granted.
12-2	Academic Dishonesty – Student hired others to complete his course work on his behalf. Student had a previous instance of dishonesty, he did accept responsibility for his actions and he had a medical circumstance.	The President accepted the unanimous recommendation of the UBSD that the student receive FD grades in CMPT 376 and 431 and a suspension of five semesters.
12-3	Academic Dishonesty – Plagiarism on an assignment which resulted in a D grade because of a 10% grade reduction penalty.	Student appealed allegations and disciplinary action. The UBSD Tribunal concluded that the applicant had committed an act of academic dishonesty and the penalty remained.
12-4	Academic Dishonesty – Copying answers from a fellow student during a quiz in CMPT 120. There were two other acts of academic dishonesty on student's record.	The UBSD Tribunal concluded that it was not shown that the student committed academic dishonesty in CMPT 120 to the requisite standard of proof. The student then submitted an appeal to have the academic dishonesty report for CMPT 120 removed from his file. The appeal hearing is PENDING.
12-5	Academic Dishonesty – Two separate acts in the same semester involving copying substantial portions of another student's exam papers. Student also had a previous record of academic dishonesty. Student does admit to dishonesty.	The President accepted the unanimous recommendation of the UBSD that an F grade in MACM 201 and FD grade in MATH 232 were appropriate and that the student should receive a suspension of three semesters.

Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals

Reporting Period
September 2011 – August 2012

The **Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals (SCODA)** heard six appeals during the period covered by this report, one involving the theft of a solutions manual, two involving charges of plagiarism, and three involving charges of cheating on assignments or during an examination. One case involved a graduate student and five cases involved undergraduate students.

SCODA Appeal No. 2010-04 (plagiarism)

Appeal based on Policy S10.04, sections 2.1(i) (procedural error) and (iii) (excessive penalty). At issue was a penalty of 10% of the grade for an assignment imposed by an instructor after it was determined that approximately 80% of a unit plan submitted by the student was copied almost verbatim from that of another student without attribution. The student claimed that she had not been given an adequate opportunity to explain. Noting the extent of the unacknowledged material and that the instructor met with the student for half an hour to discuss the matter, the Committee concluded that there was no procedural error and that the penalty was by no means excessive. The Committee confirmed the original decision which remained unchanged.

SCODA Appeal No. 2011-05 (removing solutions manual, inappropriate conduct)

Appeal based on Policy S10.04, sections 2.1 (i) (procedural error) and (iii) (excessive penalty). At issue was a grade of “FD” assigned for a course after the student removed a solution manual from a TA’s office and engaged in inappropriate behavior toward the TA. The student admitted his inappropriate conduct toward the TA but argued that the Department was not entitled to rely on it in imposing a penalty for academic dishonesty because the matter had been separately addressed based on the procedures established for matters involving general misconduct in Policy S10.03, Appendix 1. The Committee agreed that, because it had already been dealt with, the inappropriate conduct should not have factored into the penalty decision with respect to the removal of the solution manual from the TA’s office. Although the Committee made clear that it in no way condoned the student’s behavior, it found in favour of the student on this issue and varied the penalty to substitute a grade of “D” for the course.

SCODA Appeal No. 2011-06 (cheating on assignments – purchasing solutions)

Appeal from UBSD Case No. 11-7 based on Policy S10.04, section (iii) (excessive penalty). At issue was a three-semester suspension imposed in addition to a grade of FD based in substantial part on what the UBSD described as the “repeated nature of the conduct” after it found that two separate acts of academic dishonesty had occurred in the same course. Both acts involved attempts to purchase a programming assignment, each written in a separate computer language. The student argued that the UBSD should have considered this a single course of conduct. The Committee noted that each incident took place at a different time during the semester and involved a separate series of actions. It therefore confirmed the original decision which remained unchanged.

SCODA Appeal Nos. 2011-07 (plagiarism)

Appeal based on Policy S10.04, sections 2.1(i) (procedural error), (ii) (factual error) and (iii) (excessive penalty). At issue was a grade of “F” imposed for a final paper submitted by a graduate student after the instructor determined that substantial portions of the paper had been taken directly from an unacknowledged source. The student conceded that the paper was copied verbatim from other sources but argued that it was submitted in error by a family member who misunderstood his instructions regarding what paper to email to email to the instructor. Although this case arose from the same incident as USBD Case 11.10, it was not an appeal of the USBD decision under Policy S10.03, sections 5.2 and 5.3, since it was not an appeal of a penalty imposed by the University President based on the recommendation of the USBD. The Committee agreed to consider the case because it raised separate issues not before the USBD regarding the basis on which the original penalty was imposed. The Committee confirmed the original decision which remained unchanged.

SCODA Appeal No. 2012-01 (cheating on assignments, accessing solutions manual)

Appeal based on Policy S10.04, section 2.1(iii) (excessive penalty). At issue was a grade of “FD” imposed after it was determined that the student had unauthorized access to a solutions manual from which she copied answers for four homework assignments and submitted them as her own. The student argued that the Department had failed to take into account the fact that this was a first offense. The Committee noted that the actions for which the penalty was imposed involved not one but four separate acts of copying at different times over the course of the semester. It confirmed the original decision which remained unchanged.

SCODA Appeal No. 2012-02 (cheating on midterm examination, accessing online solutions)

Appeal based on Policy S10.04, section 2.1(iii) (excessive penalty). At issue was a grade of “FD” imposed after it was determined that the student had unauthorized internet access to solutions that had been posted online during a midterm examination taken on the road while attending a sports competition. The student admitted at hearing that he used another student’s computer to access the solutions when his coach briefly left the examination room but argued that the fact that this was a first offense rendered the “FD” excessive. The Department Chair stated that this was normally a factor he would take into account but that he made the decision to impose an “FD” based on the fact that the student was in a position of special trust given the arrangements that had been made to accommodate his wish to attend the sports competition and that the solutions were accessed by a deliberate internet search in direct violation of the conditions imposed in connection with his being permitted to take the midterm on the road. The Committee confirmed the original decision which remained unchanged.

SCODA Membership as of August 2012:

Chair: Dr. Doug Allen, Department of Economics
Vice-Chair: Dr. Andrea Geiger, Department of History

Faculty (Regular Members)

Dr. Andrea Geiger, Department of History
Dr. Abraham Punnen, Department of Mathematics

Faculty (Alternate Members)

Dr. Sam Black, Department of Philosophy
Dr. Karan Kavanagh, Department of Physics

Students (Regular Members)

Ms. Ashley Pullman, Graduate Student
Ms. Jennifer Brooks, Undergraduate Student
Ms. Nimisha Parekh, Undergraduate Student

Students (Alternate Members)

Mr. Marc Legacy, Graduate Student
Ms. Meaghan Wilson, Undergraduate Student

Secretary

Ms. Concetta Di Francesco, Student Academic Appeals



Andrea Geiger, Chair (2011-2012)



Date



Doug Allen, Chair (2012-2013)



Date