

For Information

Annual Report 1997/98

This is a combined report from the University Board on Student Discipline (UBSD) and the Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals (SCODA).

The University Board on Student Discipline and the Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals have been in operation since 1994. This is their fourth Annual Report under the revised policies on student academic dishonesty and misconduct.

Senate has established an ad hoc Committee to undertake a review of the student conduct policies this year. The review committee 'Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Student conduct Policies' will have the following membership and terms of reference:

Membership (appointed by the Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules on recommendation of the President):

Chair (Faculty member):	Joseph Peters	School of Computing Science
Faculty Members:	Barbara Frisken Richard Harris	Department of Physics Department of Economics
Student Member:	Nicole Mahussier	(Graduate Student)
Student Member: (appointed by SFSS)	Jon Tweedale	(Undergraduate Student)

Terms of Reference:

1. To review and update the existing student conduct policies, T10.01, T10.02, T10.03 and T10.04.
2. To consult with Faculties and other appropriate bodies in the University in the process of the review.
3. To report to SCAR with recommendations by January 1999.

While the committee is expected to consult widely, advice must be sought from the following individuals/positions because of their direct responsibilities as specified in the policies: Chair of SCODA, Co-ordinator of UBSD, Dean of Student Services and Registrar, Chairs, Director of Campus Community Services and Ombudspersons.

University Board on Student Discipline

The University Board on Student Discipline dealt with thirteen cases in the period 1 September 1997 to 31 August 1998. Only nine of these cases were heard by the University Board on Student Discipline; four were resolved by the withdrawing of the complaint or the appeal. Of the nine cases heard by the University Board on Student Discipline, ~~seven~~ ^{eight} were cases involving allegations of academic dishonesty (~~three~~ ^{two} cases of plagiarism, three cases of altering examinations or marks, two cases of cheating on examinations, and one case of submitting an assignment used in another course), and one was a case of non-academic misconduct.

In 97-4, the President overturned a University Board on Student Discipline finding of academic dishonesty on the basis that the proper procedure was not followed prior to a case reaching the University Board on Student Discipline. I would like to alert the community to the practice I will be following in the future. If a policy is not followed prior to a case reaching the University Board on Student Discipline, the matter will be sent back to the appropriate person to be dealt with under the policy before it is dealt with by the University Board on Student Discipline. Faculty and staff who are having problems interpreting the policy should consult with Ms. Alison Watt. Students who need assistance with the policy should contact the Ombudsoffice.



Professor Joan Brockman
Coordinator
University Board on Student Discipline

UBSD Membership

Faculty: Eng Choo
James Ogloff
Sheila Roberts

Students: Vishal Bajpai
Adeline Cheam *
Richard Walters
Diane Wallace

Staff: Barbara Leighs
Michael Murdock
Chris Patton

* Member until May 31, 1998

Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals

The Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals did not hear any cases during the review period 1 September 1997 to 31 August 1998. The number of members required for a hearing of SCODA were changed from 'a quorum of five members with no specific membership composition required' to '2 faculty members, 2 students, and the chair.' The procedure for the election of the Chair of SCODA was changed from a 'Senator elected by and from Senate' to a 'faculty member of SCODA elected annually by the voting members of SCODA'. SCODA will elect a new Chair at its first meeting in the Fall semester 1998.



KC Bell
Secretary
Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals

SCODA Membership

Chair: Paul Percival *

Faculty: Kathleen Akins
Sam Black
Dara Culhane
Arvind Gupta **
Marlene Moretti **
Stacy Pigg
Jenifer Thewalt

Students: Angela Aujla **
Jessica Bowering
Lawrence Ho
Caroline Murdoch
Toni MacArthur
Joy Morris **
Neelam Parmar **
Brian Peterson
Tim Wong **

* Chair until May 31, 1998

** Member until May 31, 1998

Student Discipline Summary

File #	Nature of Offence	Outcome
97-3	Case of non-academic misconduct	Allegations of threatening behaviour withdrawn by the University
97-4	Plagiarism	Board found student plagiarised and recommended letter of reprimand be placed in student's file. President did not accept recommendation because he felt procedural anomalies had occurred prior to UBSD hearing. Original grade of F (awarded on merit) to stand.
97-5	Alteration of mark on mid-term examination	Student admitted altering mark on mid-term examination. Two previous offences of academic dishonesty on file. President suspended student for a period of five semesters.
97-6	Case of non-academic misconduct	Withdrawn by student
97-7	Plagiarism	Student admitted plagiarism on two papers and had been reprimanded by Chair for same behaviour on an earlier occasion. President suspended student for four semesters.
97-8	Plagiarism	Withdrawn by student
98-1	Alteration of examinations/marks	Student admitted altering examinations by re-typing the questions, filling in mostly correct answers, and remarking the examinations. President suspended the student for five semesters.
98-2	Submission of an assignment previously used for another course	Withdrawn by student
98-3 98-4	Cheating in examination	Students appealed departmental finding of academic dishonesty. The majority of the Tribunal found that there was insufficient evidence to conclude that the students cheated. The third member dissented from this finding. Student's appeal allowed. The Instructor in the course was requested to submit a change of grade to remove penalty imposed and letters to be removed from departmental files
98-5	Alteration of examination	Student appealed departmental finding of academic dishonesty to UBSD. Appeal dismissed Penalty imposed by Instructor (mark of zero for exam) to stand
98-6	Non-academic misconduct	Student sent anonymous threatening and abusive e-mail to four faculty members. President suspended the student for six semesters. Student not allowed to return to SFU unless student provides Registrar with a letter from a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist that student does not pose a risk to faculty, staff or students. The student appealed to SCODA. The appeal is pending.