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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate DATE August 2025
FROM Tom Nault PAGES 3
Secretary, Senate Appeals Board
RE: Senate Appeals Board Annual Report for 2023

The Senate Appeals Board (SAB) hears appeals from students on matters involving the application of academic policies and requirements relating but not limited to:

- withdrawal under extenuating circumstances
- admission or re-admission to the University, where special circumstances are present

The SAB normally meets once a month but will convene more frequently when necessary. In 2023, the SAB met 14 times and reviewed a total of 57 student appeals.

Number of Appeals by Year

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Approved	33	57	32	31	28	27	29	30
Denied	17	13	6	3	5	3	17	25
Cancelled (no further action by student)		0	2	0	1	0	0	0
Did not hear (no grounds for appeal)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tabled to the next year	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	2
Total Number of Appeals	51	72	40	35	34	30	46	57

In 2023, there were a total of 57 students who appealed for 62 terms. This is a significant increase over the past three years, as case numbers had been decreasing from 2017 to 2021. We will continue to monitor this trend. It could signify a larger proportion of students struggling with their academic studies and mental and physical health after the transition to in-person learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Of the total 57 student appeals in 2023, 37 applied for WEs on *medical grounds* and 17 applied under *compassionate grounds*. The SAB generally decides in favour of those applicants when there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate that instructors offered no accommodations, extensions, or deferrals on exams/assignments.

Students Appealed on the following grounds:

	Appeals	Approved	Denied
Medical	37	16	19
Compassionate	17	14	3
Other	3	0	3
Total Appeals	57	30	25

The following is a list of appeals by Faculty:

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences	26	Faculty of Applied Science	10
Beedie School of Business	6	Faculty of Communication, Art, and Technology	2
Faculty of Education	1	Faculty of Environment	2
Faculty of Health Science	2	Faculty of Science	10

Reasons for Appeal:

To remedy required to withdraw (RTW) or academic probation status	18
To remove incomplete or failed courses	26
To retake a course beyond the normal five-repeat limit (or to remove one or more repeated courses from a transcript)	7
Students with multiple terms of WE's	5
To resolve cases due to a procedural error or decisions made without jurisdiction	1
	57

Current academic standing of the 57 students who appealed:

Graduated or applied to graduate	0
In Good Academic Standing	37
On Academic Probation	13
Require to Withdraw	7
Total	57

Procedure:

Each appeal is initially screened to determine whether it meets the grounds for appeal as outlined in the terms of reference. All appeals are heard in-camera (written form only). Students are provided with extensions to allow time to provide either more information or clearer documentation. In rare cases, if the SAB is unable to make a decision because of insufficient information, students may be asked to appear in person if they have indicated their willingness to do so on the application. The case then proceeds to an in-person hearing, at which time the student may present further evidence and answer questions. These hearings typically last 15 – 20 minutes.

Dates of meetings in 2023:

January 10, January 31, February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, May 30, July 6, August 29, September 25, September 27, October 26, November 30, and December 20.

SAB Membership:

Alexander Karaivanov, Faculty Member
Shafik Bhalloo, Faculty Member
Kamal Masri, Faculty Member
Reema Faris, Graduate Student
Mussaab Manzer, Undergraduate Student

Tom Nault, Secretary
Shafik Bhalloo, Faculty Member
Cathy D'Andrea, Faculty Member (Alternate)
Vacant, Graduate Student (Alternate)
Vacant, Undergraduate Student (Alternate)



Tom Nault, Secretary, SAB