



Date: April 7, 2020
To: Members of Senate
From: Senate Committee on Appeals
Re: **2019/2020 Annual Report**

The terms of reference for the Senate Committee on Appeals require that the Chair provide an annual report to Senate at its May meeting. This report covers the 2019/2020 academic year.

Appeals Received

The Senate Committee on Appeals received 11 appeals in 2019/2020.

Non-Academic Misconduct Appeals:

The committee did not receive any non-academic misconduct appeals in 2019/2020.

Academic Appeals

The committee received 11 academic appeals in 2019/2020:

1. The first case involved a request for academic concessions based on medical grounds. The Hearing Panel conducted the appeal on the basis of written materials. It denied the appeal.
2. The second case involved a student who was denied a request for academic accommodation. The parties attempted to reach a mediated agreement and was successful in part. The Hearing Panel conducted the remaining appeal on the basis of written materials. The appeal on the case remaining was denied.
3. The third case involved a faculty's grade conversion policy and process for exchange terms. The Hearing Panel conducted the appeal on the basis of written materials. It allowed the appeal and made recommendations to the Respondent on best practices for future policy and process.
4. The fourth case involved a violation of the Policy on Academic Integrity for conduct that allegedly occurred in the course of an exam. The parties attempted to reach a mediated agreement but was unsuccessful. The Hearing Panel conducted the appeal on the basis of written materials. The appeal was denied.
5. The fifth case involved a violation of the Policy on Academic Integrity for conduct that allegedly occurred in a submitted assignment. The Hearing Panel conducted the appeal on the basis of written materials. It denied the appeal.

6. The sixth case involved a student who was removed from a practicum experience. The Hearing Panel conducted the appeal on the basis of written materials. It denied the appeal.
7. The seventh case involved a student who was denied a number of requests for academic concession. The Hearing Panel conducted the appeal on the basis of written materials. It allowed the appeal in part.
8. The eighth case involved a request for academic concessions on medical grounds and for other extenuating circumstances. The Hearing Panel conducted the appeal on the basis of written materials. It denied the appeal.
9. The ninth case involves a denial of a minimum grade requirement waiver. The Hearing Panel conducted the appeal on the basis of written materials. It allowed the appeal.
10. The tenth case involves a purported violation of the Policy on Academic Integrity for conduct allegedly involving course attendance. The parties reached a mediated agreement, and the matter did not proceed to hearing as a result.
11. The eleventh case involved another purported violation of the Policy on Academic Integrity for conduct allegedly involving course attendance. The parties reached a mediated agreement, and the matter did not proceed to hearing as a result.

Recommendations

Academic Concessions

As noted in previous reports, Hearing Panels have found that the language of the regulation on Academic Concessions is unduly restrictive and poorly framed, and that provision should be expressly made for additional extenuating circumstances. A recommendation to review and revise this regulation is included in the 2015/16 Annual Report of Prof. Mark Gillen and the 2019/2020 Annual Report of Dr. Michelle Lawrence.

The Senate Committee on Academic Standards Sub-committee on Revisions to the Academic Concessions Regulation have consulted with the Senate Committee on Appeals in regards to the issues identified.

Workload of Senate Committee on Appeals

Below is a chart showing the number of appeals filed in recent years:

Year	Number of appeals
2019/2020	11
2018/2019	10
2017/2018	2
2016/2017	4
2015/2016	1
2014/2015	1
2013/2014	0

For the past two years, a consistent marked increase has occurred in the workload of the Senate Appeals Committee and those staff members within the University Secretary's office responsible for supporting the work of this committee.

As with the previous year, a request was made to the Senate Committee on Agenda and Governance for the participation of additional student Senators in hearing panels, to support this increase. Similar support might be requested in future years, if the number of appeals remains at the current level.

Conclusion

Thank-you to all members of the Senate Committee on Appeals. The work of this committee is very important to the just operation of the university and your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Respectively submitted,

2019/2020 Senate Committee on Appeals

Michelle Lawrence, Chair, Faculty of Law
Mark Gillen, Acting Chair, Faculty of Law
Mauricio Garcia-Barrera, Vice-Chair, Faculty of Graduate Studies
Neil Burford, Faculty of Science
Carolyn Butler-Palmer, Faculty of Fine Arts
Caelen Cook, Student Senator
Dale Ganley, Peter B. Gustavson School of Business
Maan Hani, GSS Representative
Afnan Juma, Student Senator
Eslam Mehina, Student Senator
Jillian Roberts, Faculty of Education
CindyAnn Rose-Redwood, Faculty of Social Sciences
Stephen Ross, Faculty of Humanities
Poman So, Faculty of Engineering
Susan Strega, Faculty of Human and Social Development
Ada Saab (Secretary), Associate University Secretary