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 2016/2017 academic year.

**Appeals Received**

The Senate Committee on Appeals received four academic appeals in 2016/2017. All four appeals were concluded during the course of the year. The committee also considered its first non-academic misconduct appeal since introduction of the Resolution of Non-Academic Misconduct Allegations Policy in 2011. This appeal has been concluded.

**Academic Appeals**

The first academic appeal considered in 2016/17 involved a student who made a request for WE (withdrawal under extenuating circumstances) based on medical grounds. Upon receipt of the documentation submitted with the appeal, the Respondent granted the request.

In the second academic appeal, a student appealed a decision of the Senate Committee on Admission and Re-registration of a requirement to withdraw from the university, and the decision of a faculty of a requirement to withdraw from a particular program of study. The appeal was based on medical grounds. The parties in this appeal reached a mediated agreement, and the appeal did not proceed to a hearing.

The third academic appeal of 2016/17 involved a student who appealed the Respondent’s decision to assign a failing grade for a course and requested that the F be replaced with WE (withdrawal under extenuating circumstances). In this appeal, it was determined that the appeal was not solely a question of academic judgement (which lies outside the jurisdiction of the committee). The Hearing Panel conducted a hearing based on the written materials and allowed the appeal.
In the final academic appeal of the year, a student appealed a finding that the Policy on Academic Integrity had been violated during the course of a final examination. The Hearing Panel conducted a hearing based on the written materials and allowed the appeal. During the course of the appeal, the Hearing Panel identified that the academic calendar contains conflicting regulations regarding permissible conduct during final examinations.

**Non-Academic Misconduct Appeals**

The committee received one appeal of a decision by the President to permanently suspend a student for non-academic misconduct. The parties relied on provisions of the Violence and Threatening Behaviour Policy to guide the appeal. The Hearing Panel considered issues of both procedural fairness and reasonableness. The Hearing Panel conducted two hearings based on the written materials. The appeal was denied on both grounds and the decision of the President was upheld. During the course of the appeal, the Hearing Panel determined that its procedural guidelines regarding appeals of non-academic misconduct sanctions should be clarified.

**Recommendations**

The committee wishes to present recommendations to Senate arising from two of the appeals submitted during 2016/17.

**Calendar Regulations Regarding Final Examinations and the Policy on Academic Integrity**

The committee recommends that the academic calendar regulations regarding permissible conduct during final examinations and cheating contained in the Policy on Academic Integrity and the Examinations sections be reviewed to ensure consistency and provide clarity to students. During consideration of one appeal this year, the Hearing Panel determined that the academic calendar contains unclear and inconsistent statements regarding permissible conduct during final examinations. In particular, the provisions regarding unauthorized equipment require careful review.

**Appeal of Non-Academic Misconduct Sanctions**

The committee recommends that its terms of reference and procedural guidelines be revised for greater clarity regarding jurisdiction and process for appeals of non-academic misconduct sanctions. The committee is currently in the process of drafting revisions that will be presented to Senate later this year.
Conclusion

I would like to conclude by thanking 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.

Respectfully submitted,

2017/2018 Senate Committee on Appeals
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Dheeraj Alamchandani, Student Senator
Doug Baer, Faculty of Social Sciences
Carolyn Butler-Palmer, Faculty of Fine Arts
Gweneth Doane, Faculty of Graduate Studies
Kate Fairley, Student Senator
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