S.20-106

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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate **DATE** March 13, 2020

FROM Rummana Khan Hemani
Registrar & Executive Director,
Student Enrollment

RE: Annual Report on Academic Student Discipline

As per Policy S10.01 Student Academic Integrity, S10.02 University Board on Student Discipline, and S10.03 Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals, please find enclosed the Annual Report on Academic Student Discipline matters from September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019.

Academic Discipline Annual Report
University Board on Student Discipline
Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals

RKHemani

Rummana Khan Hemani
Registrar & Executive Director,
Student Enrollment

SFU SENATE AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate **DATE** March 12, 2020

FROM Arlette Stewart
Coordinator, Academic Integrity
Senate and Academic Services

RE: ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE REPORT 2018-2019

The Student Academic Integrity Policy requires the Registrar to maintain a statistical summary of cases that is submitted to Senate annually. This report provides the details of the academic dishonesty reports received between September 01, 2018 and August 31, 2019.

There are 44 active Academic Integrity Advisors representing all 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 the 2018-2019 members included: Steve Birnie, Toby Donaldson, Rob Gordon, Rebecca Goyan, Brad Johnson, Rummana Khan Hemani, Donna McGee-Thompson, Heather Roberts and Min-Ni Sharpe.

The Academic Integrity Coordinator in the Registrar's office collects and compiles data regarding academic dishonesty cases from units across all three campuses. There were 357 incident reports filed between September 2018 and August 2019, representing a 12% reduction from the previous year. This decrease is in part due to two courses in Fall 2017 that significantly increased the incident totals for the previous 2017-2018 reporting cycle. International students were involved in 44% of the 357 cases, compared to the previous year when international students made up 55% of the reported cases. As a point of reference, international students made up just over 20% of the student body in the Fall 2018 semester.

The FD- Failed for Discipline grade was instituted on May 01, 2009. For the 2018-2019 reporting period, there were eight instances of the FD grade given as a penalty. In four of the eight cases, the offense involved misrepresentation (e.g. submitting a forged/altered medical note to gain an academic advantage.) In two instances, an FD was given for plagiarism in a major assignment and in the remaining two cases, the FD was given for submitting assignments that were not completed by the student.

Table 1 lists the most common types of incidents that occur. Table 2 details the breakdown of penalties assigned. Table 3 provides a breakdown of incident reports by Faculty. Table 4 provides a breakdown of incident reports by Faculty at the undergraduate and graduate level. Table 5 provides a comparison of undergraduate academic dishonesty report submission by Faculty.

TABLE 1: Type of Incident

Type of Incident:	September 2015 to August 2016	September 2016 to August 2017	September 2017 to August 2018	September 2018 to August 2019
Plagiarism Examples: - Slides on a student presentation were directly copied from previously published material without citation. - Final paper submission matched an online report found through Turnitin. - Student submitted a term paper containing substantial portions of patch writing and missing appropriate in-text citations.	169	137	126	155
Cheating on exams or assignments Examples: - Student posted his assignment solution on a GitHub repository which was copied by another student. - Student was found using a scientific calculator when technology was prohibited during the exam. - Student sourced answers for an assignment from a tutor who was in possession of a past answer key.	153	112	265	196
Fraud/Misrepresentation Examples: - Student attempted to represent himself as an instructor and purchase an instructor's text book. - Student submitted an altered medical note to receive an extension on an assignment.	5	2	14	6
TOTAL	**327**	**251**	**405**	**357**

TABLE 2: Assignment of Penalties

Penalties *Note: Students can receive more than one penalty	**Sept. 2015 to Aug. 2016**	**Sept. 2016 to Aug. 2017**	**Sept. 2017 to Aug. 2018**	**Sept. 2018 to Aug. 2019**
Give the student a warning	28	15	31	24
Re-do the work or do supplementary work	32	24	32	44
Assign a grade penalty less harsh than 'F' for the work	60	42	46	67
Impose a failing mark for the work	195	166	178	214
Issue a formal reprimand	12	5	19	6
Assign a grade less harsh than 'FD' for the course	5	12	109	2
Assign a grade of "FD"	10	6	5	8

Note: Instructors can assign more than one penalty for every incident.

TABLE 3: Annual Reporting by Faculty

Faculty	Incident Reports Sept. 2015 to Aug. 2016	Incident Reports Sept. 2016 to Aug. 2017	Incident Reports Sept. 2017 to Aug. 2018	Incident Reports Sept. 2018 to Aug. 2019	Percentage % of reports submitted by Faculty, Sept 2018 to Aug 2019
Applied Sciences	113	57	69	**78**	**22**
Arts & Social Sciences	139	115	203	**168**	**47**
Beedie School of Business	19	17	12	**33**	**9**
Communication, Art & Technology	5	6	22	**13**	**4**
Education	0	2	7	**8**	**2**
Environment	1	2	1	**2**	**0.5**
Health Sciences	18	9	7	**5**	**1.5**
Science	32	43	84	**50**	**14**
Total	327	251	405	**357**	**100%**

TABLE 4: Comparison of Undergraduate and Graduate report submission, September 2018 to August 2019

Faculty	Undergraduate	Graduate	Total reports	Percentage (%) of total reports submitted by Faculty
Applied Sciences	59	19	78	22
Arts & Social Sciences	163	5	168	47
Beedie School of Business	27	6	33	9
Communication, Art & Technology	13	0	13	4
Education	7	1	8	2
Environment	2	0	2	0.5
Health Sciences	5	0	5	1.5
Science	50	0	50	14
Total	**326**	**31**	**357**	**100%**

TABLE 5: Comparison of Undergraduate report submission by Faculty

Faculty	Undergraduate Reports	Percentage (%) of UG report submission by Faculty	Undergraduate Headcount, Fall 2018
Applied Sciences	59	18	13
Arts & Social Sciences	163	50	37
Beedie School of Business	27	8	13
Communication, Art & Technology	13	4	10
Education	7	2	4
Environment	2	1	4
Health Sciences	5	2	5
Science	50	15	14
Total	326	100%	100%

University Board on Student Discipline

Reporting Period: September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2019

UBSD Membership

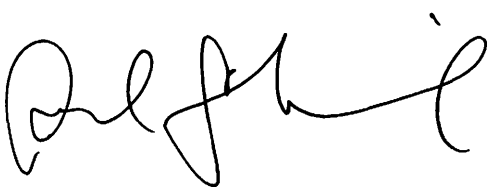
Faculty: V. Gordon Rose (Coordinator), Psychology (January 2009 - December 2018)
Paul Garfinkel (Coordinator), History (January 2019 – December 2021)
Karen Kohfeld, Resource and Environmental Mgmt (February 2019 – January 2022)
Tony Williams, Biological Sciences (September 2016 – July 2019)
David Murphy, Communication (May 2014 - April 2020)

Students: Jayme Lewthwaite, Graduate, Science (March 2016 - February 2019)
Raajan Garcha, Undergraduate, Health Sciences (February 2018 – January 2019)
Adebola Ige, Graduate, Computing Science (August 2016 – July 2018)
Melissa McGregor, Graduate, Arts and Social Sciences (Sept 2018 – August 2019)
Lara Alvarez, Undergraduate, Psychology (February 2019 – January 2020)
Sophia Dobischok, Undergraduate, Science (October 2019 – Sept 2019)

Staff: Shelley Gair, Graduate Studies (November 2014 - October 2020)
Harriet Chicoine, Engineering Science (January 2010 - October 2019)
Tracy Bruneau, Computing Science (August 2004 - August 2019)

Two cases concerning academic dishonesty were heard by the University Board on Student Discipline in the period covered by the report.

A summary of the cases is attached for information.



Paul Garfinkel
Coordinator, University Board on Student Discipline

Student Discipline Summary

File #	Nature of Offence	Outcome
18-8	Academic Dishonesty under SFU Policy S 10.01, section 4.1.2(a)(iii) – failing to acknowledge the phrases, sentences or ideas of the author of published and unpublished material that is incorporated into an essay or other assignment.	The UBSD denied the student's appeal and upheld the finding of the Instructor that the Applicant had committed academic dishonesty. Pursuant to s. 3.3 of Policy S10.03, the penalty imposed by the Instructor remains unchanged.
18-12	Academic Dishonesty under SFU Policy S 10.01, 4.1.2(a) – Plagiarism, including: (i) submitting or presenting the work of another person... as that of the student without full and appropriate accreditation; (ii) Copying all or part of an essay or other assignment from an author or other person...and presenting the material as the student's original work; (iii) failing to acknowledge the phrases, sentences or ideas of the author of published and unpublished material that is incorporated into an essay or other assignment.	The UBSD upheld the student's appeal and overturned the finding of academic dishonesty. Pursuant to Policy S10.03, Paragraph 3.3, the Tribunal directed that the impugned paper should be marked on its merits, and the Applicant's grade adjusted as may be necessary. Any record of dishonesty associated with this incident should be removed from the Applicant's files.

Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals

Reporting Period
September 2018 – August 2019

The **Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals (SCODA)** heard only one appeal during the period covered by this report.

SCODA Appeal No. 2018-01 (academic misconduct)

This case involved an undergraduate Computer Science student who was charged with academic misconduct for using notes during a take-home midterm in a distance education course. The use of notes had been prohibited. The student then dropped the course.

Unrelated to the student, there was massive academic misconduct during the take home midterm exam involving purchased exams and the use of a cheating app. The department decided not to distinguish between these infractions and this particular student's use of notes. It therefore assigned all students involved in any misconduct an "F" for the course.

This student appealed the grade based on Policy S10.04, 2.1 (iii), "that the penalty imposed on the student is excessive in all the circumstances of the case."

The UBSD concluded that the student had engaged in cheating, and that the Tribunal had "no choice but to confirm the Respondent's finding of Academic Dishonesty pursuant to Policy S10.03, Paragraph 3.3." The UBSD report went on to say that "We do so with enormous reluctance, however, and with considerable discomfort. Given the inequity of the penalty imposed in this case, we would overturn the finding if we could legitimately do so. … Fairness consists not only of treating people in similar circumstances in a similar fashion, but also treating people in different circumstances differently."

In discussing the case, SCODA considered similar cases of academic misconduct on a midterm exam, and the arguments made by the appellant and respondent.

SCODA concluded that:

1. The assignment of an "F" for the entire course was excessive, not just in comparison to the other more extensive cheating in the course, but also compared to other similar cases that have come before SCODA.
2. There were other mitigating factors. The exam instructions were "buried" and should have been on the first page of the exam, given that this was a distance course. The midterm was only one of four exams, and did not count for a substantial part of the course. The student had already dropped the course before finding out there was a larger cheating problem.

Therefore, the SCODA accepted the student's appeal and recommended that the grade be reverted back to the original "WD" grade for withdraw.

SCODA Membership as of August 2019:

Chair: Doug Allen, Department of Economics
Vice-Chair: Daniel Laitsch, Faculty of Education

Faculty (Regular Member):
Abraham Punnen, Department of Mathematics

Faculty (Alternate Member):
Vacant

Students (Regular Member):
Sterling Hillman (Student Representative)
Kau'I Kliipio (Student Representative)
Abhishek Parmar (Student Representative)

Students (Alternate Member):
Vacant

Secretary:
Concetta Di Francesco, Senate and Academic Services

Doug Allen, Chair (2018-2019)

Feb. 11/20
Date