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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate DATE April 2026
FROM Tom Nault PAGES 3
Secretary, Senate Appeals Board
RE: Senate Appeals Board Annual Report for 2025

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 (“WE”)
- admission or re-admission to the University, where special circumstances are present

SAB normally meets once a month but will convene more frequently when necessary. In 2025, SAB met 9 times and reviewed a total of 33 student appeals.

Number of Appeals by Year

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Approved	57	32	31	28	27	29	30	30	20
Denied	13	6	3	5	3	17	25	29	13
Cancelled (no further action by student)	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Did not hear (no grounds for appeal)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tabled to the next year	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
Total Number of Appeals	72	40	35	34	30	46	57	59	33

Although the number of cases had been increasing incrementally from 2021 to 2024, there was a substantial decrease from 2024 to 2025. In 2025, there were a total of 33 students who appealed for 35 terms. It could be observed in monitoring the trend that the large increase between 2021 to 2024 could be attributed to a larger proportion of students struggling with their academic studies and mental and physical health after the transition to emergency remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2025, this downward trend could be an indication that the effects of the pandemic have since subsided as the number of cases seen were similar to the levels in 2019, pre pandemic, and 2020, the height of the pandemic.

Students appealed on the following grounds:

The decision was made by someone without authority	0
Denial of natural justice, such as: a bias on the part of the decision maker or failure to consider information or special circumstance	17
A procedural error	3
New evidence that would have affected the original decision	27
Total Grounds for Appeal	47*

*Note - 27 students cited more than one ground of appeal

Of the total 33 student appeals in 2025, 23 applied for WEs on *medical grounds*, 9 applied on *compassionate grounds* and 1 on *other grounds*. SAB generally decides in favour of those applicants when there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate no academic concessions were offered by the instructor and the student has demonstrated that an academic concession was reasonable given the circumstances.

Students applied for WEs on the basis of the following:

	Appeals	Approved	Denied
Medical	23	14	9
Compassionate	9	5	4
Other	1	1	0
Total Appeals	33	20	13

The following is a list of appeals by Faculty:

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences	14
Beedie School of Business	3
Faculty of Education	0
Faculty of Health Science	1
Faculty of Applied Sciences	5
Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology	1
Faculty of Environment	0
Faculty of Science	9
Total Appeals	33

Reasons for Appeal:

To remedy Required to Withdraw or academic probation status	13
To remove incomplete or failed courses	2
To retake a course beyond the normal five-repeat limit (or to remove one or more repeated courses from a transcript)	1
Student with multiple terms of WEs	17
To resolve cases due to a procedural error or decisions made without jurisdiction	0
Total Appeals	33

Current academic standing of the students who appealed:

Graduated or applied to graduate	0
In Good Academic Standing	15
On Academic Probation	9
Require to Withdraw	9
Total Appeals	33

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 2025:

January 20, February 27, March 31, June 6, August 14, September 19, October 23, November 20 and December 17.

SAB Membership:

Tom Nault, Secretary

Alexander Karaivanov, Faculty Member

Shafik Bhalloo, Faculty Member

Michael Everton, Faculty Member

Sam Black, Faculty Member

Mussaab Manzer, Undergraduate Student

Shafik Bhalloo, Faculty Member

Sikandra Ali, Graduate Student

Cathy D'Andrea, Faculty Member (Alternate) (Term ended May 31, 2025)

Vinisha Vinisha, Undergraduate Student (Alternate) (Joined July 7, 2025)



Tom Nault, Secretary, SAB