



OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR
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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate DATE March 24, 2021
FROM Kathryn Verkerk
Registrar & Executive Director,
Student Enrollment pro tem
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, 2019 to August 31, 2020.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kathryn Verkerk'.

Kathryn Verkerk
Registrar & Executive Director,
Student Enrollment pro tem



MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate **DATE** March 24, 2021

FROM Arlette Stewart
Coordinator, Academic Integrity
Senate and Academic Services

RE: Academic Discipline Report 2019-2020

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, 2019 and August 31, 2020.

The Academic Integrity Coordinator in the Registrar’s Office collects and compiles data regarding academic dishonesty cases from academic units across all three campuses. There were 667 incident reports filed between September 01, 2019 and August 31, 2020, representing an 87% increase from the previous year. Breakdown by term for the reporting period is as follows: Fall 2019= 126 reports, Spring 2020= 276 reports and Summer 2020= 265 reports. The increase in the Spring 2020 and Summer 2020 terms is coincident with the transition to remote instruction starting in the Spring 2020 term due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

International students were involved in 42% of the 667 cases, which represents no change when compared to the previous year.

Table 1 provides a breakdown of the reports by type of violation (plagiarism, cheating, fraud/misrepresentation). The breakdown by type shows that the increase in reports were primarily due to an increase in the incidents categorized as cheating.

Table 2 details the breakdown of penalties assigned. The penalty of a failing mark for the work was the most common penalty assigned by instructors. The FD- Failed for Discipline grade was instituted on May 01, 2009. In the previous reporting period, an FD grade was assigned in 8 cases. For the 2019-2020 reporting period, there were 20 cases where the FD grade was assigned as a penalty.

Table 3 provides a breakdown of incident reports by Faculty.

TABLE 1: Type of Incident

| Type of Incident: | September 2016 to August 2017 | September 2017 to August 2018 | September 2018 to August 2019 | September 2019 to August 2020 |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Plagiarism Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submission of assignment found on CourseHero for a course that had a similar version of the assignment. - Significant portion of a group project is made up of work identical to a submission by another group in a previous semester. - Graduate student submitted an edited version of another faculty member's proposal as her own work. | 137 | 126 | 155 | 155 |
| Cheating on exams or assignments Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation in Facebook group chat where students shared answers to assignment. - Navigating away from Canvas quiz to access lecture notes during closed book exam. - Uploading of exam questions to Chegg.com to receive answers during exam. | 112 | 265 | 196 | 507 |
| Fraud/Misrepresentation Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Student attributed technology disruptions during exam when Coursys logs clearly indicated his browser loaded the quiz and there were no connectivity issues. - Student claimed to interview a community member in the business community for an assignment and fabricated interview data. - Student misrepresented her circumstances to gain an extension on an assignment. | 2 | 14 | 6 | 5 |
| TOTAL | 251 | 405 | 357 | 667 |

TABLE 2: Assignment of Penalties

| Penalty | September 2016 to August 2017 | September 2017 to August 2018 | September 2018 to August 2019 | September 2019 to August 2020 |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Give the student a warning | 15 | 31 | 24 | 50 |
| Re-do the work or do supplementary work | 24 | 32 | 44 | 35 |
| Assign a grade penalty less harsh than 'F' for the work | 42 | 46 | 67 | 113 |
| Impose a failing mark for the work | 166 | 178 | 214 | 469 |
| Issue a formal reprimand | 5 | 19 | 6 | 4 |
| Assign a grade less harsh than 'FD' for the course | 12 | 109 | 2 | 8 |
| Assign a grade of "FD" | 6 | 5 | 8 | 20 |

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

TABLE 3: Prevalence of academic integrity reports by Faculty

| Faculty | September 2016 to August 2017 | September 2017 to August 2018 | September 2018 to August 2019 | September 2019 to August 2020 | Percentage % of reports submitted by Faculty, September 2018 to August 2019 |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Applied Sciences | 57 | 69 | 78 | 154 | 23 |
| Arts & Social Sciences | 115 | 203 | 168 | 186 | 28 |
| Beedie School of Business | 17 | 12 | 33 | 54 | 8 |
| Communication, Art & Technology | 6 | 22 | 13 | 25 | 4 |
| Education | 2 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 1 |
| Environment | 2 | 1 | 2 | 29 | 4 |
| Health Sciences | 9 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 1 |
| Science | 43 | 84 | 50 | 209 | 31 |
| Total | 251 | 405 | 357 | 667 | 100% |

University Board on Student Discipline

Reporting Period: September 1, 2019 – August 31, 2020

UBSD Membership

Faculty: 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 2022)
David Murphy, Communication (May 2014 – June 2023)

Students: Jayme Lewthwaite, Graduate, Science (March 2016 – May 2021)
Melissa McGregor, Graduate, Arts and Social Sciences (Sept 2018 – December 2020)
Lara Alvarez, Undergraduate, Psychology (February 2019 – January 2020)
Sophia Dobischok, Undergraduate, Science (October 2019 – Sept 2021)

Staff: Shelley Gair, Graduate Studies (November 2014 - October 2020)
Harriet Chicoine, Engineering Science (January 2010 – May 2023)

Three 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 |
|--------|---|--|
| 19-3 | Academic Dishonesty under SFU Policy S 10.01, section 2.4.1(a) – falsification, misrepresentation, fraud or misuse, the dominant purpose of which is academic advantage. | The President accepted the unanimous recommendation of the UBSD that the student receive a two-semester suspension from Simon Fraser University. |
| 20-6 | Academic Dishonesty under SFU Policy S 10.01, section 2.3.6(a) – Cheating in assignments, projects, examinations, or other forms of evaluation by using, or attempting to use, another individual's answers | The President accepted the unanimous recommendation of the UBSD that the grade of FD be confirmed and that the student receive a one-semester suspension from Simon Fraser University. |
| 20-10 | Academic Dishonesty under SFU Policy S 10.01, Section 2.3.3(c) - cheating during an examination including the unauthorized possession or use of course notes or any other aids not approved by an instructor during an examination; Section 2.3.3(f) - cheating during an examination including unauthorized access [to] or sharing of information or resources, in any format, pertaining to the examination; section 2.3.4 - submitting as one's original work an...examination, or part thereof, that was purchased or otherwise acquired from another source; Section 2.3.6(a) - Cheating in assignments, projects, examinations, or other forms of evaluation by using, or attempting to use, another individual's answers | The UBSD Tribunal upheld the student's appeal and overturned the finding of academic dishonesty and directed that the instructor should assess a mark of zero for question 1 on the final exam; grade the rest of the exam on its merits; and award the 5% bonus that other students received. The final mark for the course should be amended to reflect those changes. |

Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals

Reporting Period September 2019 – August 2020

The **Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals (SCODA)** heard two appeals during the period covered by this report.

SCODA Appeal No. 2019-01 (academic misconduct)

This case involved an undergraduate in ARCH 100 who was given an “FD” grade for using a forged Doctor’s note to explain an absence from an exam, and for subsequent denials of any wrong doing. The 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 student argued at SCODA that i) the FD could be devastating to their career and future endeavors, ii) that if they had received a zero mark for the exam they still would have ended up with a “C” grade, and iii) that they had been dealing with mental health issues at the time.

SCODA rejected the first two mitigating factors. SCODA did find that the mental state of the student could have been a mitigating factor, and given the student’s description of their condition, it was reasonable to conclude that the student was not in a state of mind to convey information about their mental health to the department.

The chair of the department stated they were unaware of the mental health issue at the time the FD was assigned, but did not state whether knowledge of this would have influenced the decision to hand out an FD grade.

In light of these facts, SCODA returned the case back to the department, without prejudice, for reconsideration of the penalty in light of the new evidence.

SCODA Appeal No. 2020-01 (academic misconduct)

This hearing was conducted online using “Zoom,” due to the Covid19 pandemic.

This case involved an undergraduate student enrolled in CRIM 131 during fall 2018 who was initially given a warning for uploading a paper to the website StuDocU.com, which their instructor considered a violation of Policy S10.01, 5.2.4, which reads: “It is a violation to help others or attempt to help others engage in any forms of academic dishonesty or misconduct.”

In the fall of 2019 the Office of the Registrar assigned a mark of “zero” for the essay, and changed the student’s course grade from a B to a C+ because the student had an earlier academic dishonesty incident in the Summer of 2018. The student came directly to SCODA, and appealed the grade change based on Policy S10.03, 4.1.3, “that the penalty imposed on the student is excessive in all the circumstances of the case.”

The question before SCODA was only, given the misconduct, was a grade of zero for the essay appropriate? SCODA unanimously agreed that the penalty was appropriate, especially in light of the back-to-back academic misconduct incidences.

SCODA upheld the grade assigned by the Office of the Registrar.

SCODA Membership as of August 2019:

Chair: Douglas Allen, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Vice-Chair: Daniel Laitsch, Faculty of Education

Faculty (Regular Member):

Abraham Punnen, Faculty of Science

Faculty (Alternate Member):

Ingrid Northwood, Faculty of Science

Nabyl Merbouh, Faculty of Science

Students (Regular Member):

Kau'i Keliipi, Student Representative

Abhishek Parmar, Student Representative


Students (Alternate Member):

Navpreet Kaur, Student Representative

Stirling Hillman, Student Representative

Secretary:

Concetta Di Francesco, Senate and Academic Services



Douglas Allen, Chair (2019-2020)



Date