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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Senate	**DATE**	
FROM	Tom Nault Registrar & Executive Director, Student Enrollment		April 25, 2022
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, 2020 to August 31, 2021.

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

Tom Nault
Registrar & Executive Director.
Student Enrollment

SFU SENATE AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate **DATE** April 14, 2022

FROM Arlette Stewart
Coordinator, Academic Integrity
Senate and Academic Services

RE: Academic Discipline Report 2020-2021

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 1, 2020 and August 31, 2021. This reporting period is coincident with the second year of remote instruction due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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 806 incident reports filed between September 1, 2020 and August 31, 2021. The 806 reports represent a 21% increase from the previous year that consisted of one semester of in person teaching (Fall 2019) and two semesters of emergency remote instruction (Spring 2020 and Summer 2020).

International students were involved in 44% of the 806 cases, which represents a slight change when compared to the previous year (42%). Graduate students were reported in 20 of the 806 cases, up from 14 in 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 majority of reports are categorized as cheating (73%) compared to those categorized as plagiarism (25%) and fraud/misrepresentation (2%). The shift toward an increase in reports categorized as cheating is coincident with the shift to emergency remote instruction. Prior to Spring 2020, the percentage of reports categorized as cheating hovered slightly above the 50% mark.

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 (63%) followed by a penalty of reduced mark on the work (29%). Cases that are escalated to the Registrar or the Chair can receive an additional penalty consisting of one or more of the following: Formal Reprimand, Grade less harsh than an FD, or an FD grade. For the 2020-2021 reporting period, there were 29 cases where the FD grade was assigned as a penalty, up from 20 cases in the previous year.

Table 3 provides a breakdown of incident reports by Faculty.

TABLE 1: Type of Incident

Type of Incident:	September 2017 to August 2018	September 2018 to August 2019	September 2019 to August 2020	September 2020 to August 2021
Plagiarism Examples: - Copying verbatim without citation from an online source detected using Turnitin. - Assignment submitted with significant patchwriting after patchwriting was explicitly addressed in Plagiarism tutorial. - Graduate student's final paper and presentation slides consisted of copied material that used a synonym finder and replacement algorithm to modify text.	126	155	155	203
Cheating on exams or assignments Examples: - Collaboration with classmates during online final exam. - Submission of assignments that were edited by third party without permission from instructor. - Uploading of exam questions to Chegg.com to receive answers during exam.	265	196	507	590
Fraud/Misrepresentation Examples: - Students in group project fabricated data in their lab report. - Student submitted a falsified letter from a physician to request a make-up exam. - Student misrepresented her circumstances and repeatedly claimed IT and Canvas technical difficulties to gain extensions on multiple assignments.	14	6	5	13
TOTAL	**405**	**357**	**667**	**806**

TABLE 2: Assignment of Penalties

Penalty	September 2017 to August 2018	September 2018 to August 2019	September 2019 to August 2020	September 2020 to August 2021
Assigned by Instructor				
Give the student a warning	31	24	50	56
Re-do the work or do supplementary work	32	44	35	10
Assign a grade penalty less harsh than 'F' for the work	46	67	113	233
Impose a failing mark for the work	178	214	469	507
Assigned by Chair or Registrar				
Issue a formal reprimand	19	6	4	52
Assign a grade less harsh than 'FD' for the course	109	2	8	32
Assign a grade of "FD"	5	8	20	29

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

TABLE 3: Prevalence of academic integrity reports by Faculty

Faculty	September 2017 to August 2018	September 2018 to August 2019	September 2019 to August 2020	September 2020 to August 2021	Percentage % of reports submitted by Faculty, September 2020 to August 2021
Applied Sciences	69	78	154	144	18
Arts & Social Sciences	203	168	186	242	30
Beedie School of Business	12	33	54	81	10
Communication, Art & Technology	22	13	25	12	2
Education	7	8	5	7	1
Environment	1	2	29	25	3
Health Sciences	7	5	5	25	3
Science	84	50	209	270	33
Total	**405**	**357**	**667**	**806**	**100**

University Board on Student Discipline

Reporting Period: September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021

UBSD Membership

Faculty: Paul Garfinkel (Coordinator), History (January 2019 – December 2021)
Judith Osborne, Special Appointment, January 2021 – April 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)
Gregory Baker, Computing Science (February 2021 – May 2024)

Students: Jayme Lewthwaite, Graduate - Science (March 2016 – April 2022)
Amanda Cronkite, Undergraduate – Business (October 2020 – September 2022)
Miranda Pinter-Collett, Undergraduate - Arts (October 2020 to September 2021)
Sophia Dobischok, Undergraduate - Science (September 2018 – September 2022)
Karmen Gill, Undergraduate – Science (October 2020 – September 2022)
Livia Poljak, Graduate – Education (October 2020 – September 2022)

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

Thirty-four 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.

David Murphy
Coordinator, University Board on Student Discipline

Student Discipline Summary

File #	Nature of Offence	Outcome
20-2 20-3	Academic Dishonesty under SFU Policy S 10.01, section 2.3.6(c) - Cheating in assignments, projects, examinations, or other forms of evaluation by: in the case of students who work or study together, submitting identical or virtually identical assignments for evaluation unless permitted by the course instructor.	The UBSD Tribunal upheld the student's appeal and overturned the finding of academic dishonesty. Pursuant to s.6.3 of Policy S10.02, the Tribunal directed that the penalty imposed by the Respondent should be removed and any record of dishonesty associated with this incident should be removed from the Applicants' files.
20-4	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 UBSD denied the student's appeal and upheld the finding of the Instructor that the Applicant had committed academic dishonesty. Pursuant to s.6.3 of Policy S10.02, the Tribunal directed that the penalty imposed by the Respondent remain in place.
20-5	Academic Dishonesty under SFU Policy S 10.01, section 2.3.7 - Impersonating a candidate or being impersonated in an examination; section 2.3.10 - Engaging in misrepresentation, including falsifying documents, to gain a benefit or advantage in a course; section 2.3.15 - Unauthorized sharing, selling, or use of proprietary instructional, examination, textbook, assignment, or other course materials.	The President did not accept the recommendation of the UBSD that the student receive a permanent suspension and instead issued a seven-semester suspension from Simon Fraser University.
20-11	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 UBSD denied the student's appeal and upheld the finding of the Instructor that the Applicant had committed academic dishonesty. Pursuant to s.6.3 of Policy S10.02, the Tribunal directed that the penalty imposed by the Respondent remain in place.
20-12	Academic Dishonesty under SFU Policy S 10.01, section 2.3.4 - Submitting as one's original work an essay, project, thesis, presentation, other assignment, or examination, or part thereof, that was purchased or otherwise acquired from another source; section 2.3.3 - Cheating during an examination, including: (d) the unauthorized possession, use, or sharing of an examination question sheet, an examination answer book, a completed examination or assignment, or other examination material; (e) the unauthorized use of devices, such as mobile phones, to receive or share information pertaining to the examination; (f) the unauthorized access or sharing of information or resources, in any format, pertaining to the examination; section 2.3.6 - Cheating in assignments, projects, examinations, or other forms of evaluation by: (a) using, or attempting to use, another individual's answers; (b) providing questions and/or answers to other individuals.	The President accepted the unanimous recommendation of the UBSD that the student receive a six-semester suspension from Simon Fraser University.

Student Discipline Summary

File #	Nature of Offence	Outcome
20-13	Academic Dishonesty under SFU Policy S 10.01, section 2.3.3 - Cheating during an examination, including: (c) the unauthorized possession or use of course notes or any other aids not approved by an instructor during an examination; (e) the unauthorized use of devices, such as mobile phones, to receive or share information pertaining to the examination; (f) the unauthorized access or sharing of information or resources, in any format, pertaining to the examination; 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. Pursuant to s.6.3 of Policy S10.02, the Tribunal directed that the penalty imposed by the Respondent should be removed and any record of dishonesty associated with this incident should be removed from the Applicants' files.
20-14	Academic Dishonesty under SFU Policy S 10.01, section 2.3.6(b) - Cheating in assignments, projects, examinations, or other forms of evaluation by: providing questions and/or answers to other individuals.	The UBSD denied the student's appeal and upheld the finding of the Instructor that the Applicant had committed academic dishonesty. Pursuant to s.6.3 of Policy S10.02, the Tribunal directed that the penalty imposed by the Respondent remain in place.
20-15	Academic Dishonesty under SFU Policy S 10.01, section 2.3.3 - Cheating during an examination, including: (c) the unauthorized possession or use of course notes or any other aids not approved by an instructor during an examination; (e) the unauthorized use of devices, such as mobile phones, to receive or share information pertaining to the examination; (f) the unauthorized access or sharing of information or resources, in any format, pertaining to the examination; 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. Pursuant to s.6.3 of Policy S10.02, the Tribunal directed that the penalty imposed by the Respondent should be removed and any record of dishonesty associated with this incident should be removed from the Applicants' files.
20-17	Academic Dishonesty under SFU Policy S 10.01, section 2.3.3 - Cheating during an examination, including: (c) the unauthorized possession or use of course notes or any other aids not approved by an instructor during an examination; (f) the unauthorized access or sharing of information or resources, in any format, pertaining to the examination.	The UBSD Tribunal upheld the student's appeal and overturned the finding of academic dishonesty. Pursuant to s.6.3 of Policy S10.02, the Tribunal directed that the penalty imposed by the Respondent should be removed and any record of dishonesty associated with this incident should be removed from the Applicants' files.
20-18	Academic Dishonesty under SFU Policy S 10.01, section 2.3.3 - Cheating during an examination, including: (a) the unauthorized sharing of material such as textbooks during an "open book" examination; (c) the unauthorized possession or use of course notes or any other aids not approved by an instructor during an examination; (e) the unauthorized use of devices, such as mobile phones, to receive or share information pertaining to the examination; (f) the unauthorized access or sharing of information or resources, in any format, pertaining to the examination.	The UBSD Tribunal upheld the student's appeal and overturned the finding of academic dishonesty. Pursuant to s.6.3 of Policy S10.02, the Tribunal directed that the penalty imposed by the Respondent should be removed and any record of dishonesty associated with this incident should be removed from the Applicants' files.

Student Discipline Summary

File #	Nature of Offence	Outcome
20-20	Academic Dishonesty under SFU Policy S 10.01, section 5.2.1 - Any action that contravenes the standard of academic integrity is prohibited, including any act of dishonesty, falsification, misrepresentation, or deception in one's academic work.	The UBSD Tribunal upheld the student's appeal and overturned the finding of academic dishonesty. Pursuant to s.6.3 of Policy S10.02, the Tribunal directed that the penalty imposed by the Respondent should be removed and any record of dishonesty associated with this incident should be removed from the Applicants' files.
20-21 20-22 20-24	Academic Dishonesty under SFU Policy S 10.01, section 2.3.4 - Submitting as one's original work an essay, project, thesis, presentation, other assignment, or examination, or part thereof, that was purchased or otherwise acquired from another source; Section 2.3.6 - Cheating in assignments, projects, examinations, or other forms of evaluation by: (a) using, or attempting to use, another individual's answers; (b) providing questions and/or answers to other individuals.	The UBSD denied the student's appeal and upheld the finding of the Instructor that the Applicants had committed academic dishonesty. Pursuant to s.6.3 of Policy S10.02, the Tribunal directed that the penalty imposed by the Respondent remain in place.
20-23	Academic Dishonesty under SFU Policy S 10.01, section 2.3.3 - Cheating during an examination, including: (c) the unauthorized possession or use of course notes or any other aids not approved by an instructor during an examination; (e) the unauthorized use of devices, such as mobile phones, to receive or share information pertaining to the examination; (f) the unauthorized access or sharing of information or resources, in any format, pertaining to the examination; Section 2.3.4 - Submitting as one's original work an essay, project, thesis, presentation, other assignment, or examination, or part thereof, that was purchased or otherwise acquired from another source; Section 2.3.6 - Cheating in assignments, projects, examinations, or other forms of evaluation by: (a) using, or attempting to use, another individual's answers; (b) providing questions and/or answers to other individuals.	The UBSD denied the student's appeal and upheld the finding of the Instructor that the Applicant had committed academic dishonesty. Pursuant to s.6.3 of Policy S10.02, the Tribunal directed that the penalty imposed by the Respondent remain in place.
20-25	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 2.3.4 - Submitting as one's original work an essay, project, thesis, presentation, other assignment, or 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 denied the student's appeal and upheld the finding of the Instructor that the Applicant had committed academic dishonesty. Pursuant to s.6.3 of Policy S10.02, the Tribunal directed that the penalty imposed by the Respondent remain in place.
20-26	Academic Dishonesty under SFU Policy S 10.01, section 5.2.1 - Any action that contravenes the standard of academic integrity is prohibited, including any act of dishonesty, falsification, misrepresentation, or deception in one's academic work.	The UBSD Tribunal upheld the student's appeal and overturned the finding of academic dishonesty. Pursuant to s.6.3 of Policy S10.02, the Tribunal directed that the penalty imposed by the Respondent should be removed and any record of dishonesty associated with this incident should be removed from the Applicants' files.

Student Discipline Summary

File #	Nature of Offence	Outcome
20-27	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 UBSD Tribunal upheld the student's appeal and overturned the finding of academic dishonesty. Pursuant to s.6.3 of Policy S10.02, the Tribunal directed that the penalty imposed by the Respondent should be removed and any record of dishonesty associated with this incident should be removed from the Applicants' files.
20-28	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.	The UBSD denied the student's appeal and upheld the finding of the Instructor that the Applicant had committed academic dishonesty. Pursuant to s.6.3 of Policy S10.02, the Tribunal directed that the penalty imposed by the Respondent remain in place.
20-29	Academic Dishonesty under SFU Policy S 10.01, section 2.3.6 - Cheating in assignments, projects, examinations, or other forms of evaluation by: (a) using, or attempting to use, another individual's answers; (b) providing questions and/or answers to other individuals.	The UBSD Tribunal upheld the student's appeal and overturned the finding of academic dishonesty. Pursuant to s.6.3 of Policy S10.02, the Tribunal directed that the penalty imposed by the Respondent should be removed and any record of dishonesty associated with this incident should be removed from the Applicants' files.
20-30	Academic Dishonesty under SFU Policy S 10.01, section 2.3.3 - Cheating during an examination, including: (c) the unauthorized possession or use of course notes or any other aids not approved by an instructor during an examination; (f) the unauthorized access or sharing of information or resources, in any format, pertaining to the examination.	The UBSD denied the student's appeal and upheld the finding of the Instructor that the Applicant had committed academic dishonesty. Pursuant to s.6.3 of Policy S10.02, the Tribunal directed that the penalty imposed by the Respondent remain in place.
20-31	Academic Dishonesty under SFU Policy S 10.01, section 2.3.3 - Cheating during an examination, including: (e) the unauthorized use of devices, such as mobile phones, to receive or share information pertaining to the examination; (f) the unauthorized access or sharing of information or resources, in any format, pertaining to the examination; 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 denied the student's appeal and upheld the finding of the Instructor that the Applicant had committed academic dishonesty. Pursuant to s.6.3 of Policy S10.02, the Tribunal directed that the penalty imposed by the Respondent remain in place.
21-1	Academic Dishonesty under SFU Policy S 10.01, section 2.3.1 - Plagiarism, including: (a) submitting or presenting the work of another person, including artistic imagery, as that of the student without full and appropriate accreditation; (c) 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.6.3 of Policy S10.02, the Tribunal directed that the penalty imposed by the Respondent remain in place.
21-3 21-4	Academic Dishonesty under SFU Policy S 10.01, section 2.3.6 - Cheating in assignments, projects, examinations, or other forms of evaluation by: (a) using, or attempting to use, another individual's answers; (b) providing questions and/or answers to other individuals.	The UBSD Tribunal upheld the student's appeal and overturned the finding of academic dishonesty. Pursuant to s.6.3 of Policy S10.02, the Tribunal directed that the penalty imposed by the Respondent should be removed and any record of dishonesty associated with this incident should be removed from the Applicants' files.

Student Discipline Summary

File #	Nature of Offence	Outcome
21-5	Academic Dishonesty under SFU Policy S 10.01, section 2.3.3 - Cheating during an examination, including: (c) the unauthorized possession or use of course notes or any other aids not approved by an instructor during an examination; (e) the unauthorized use of devices, such as mobile phones, to receive or share information pertaining to the examination; Section 2.3.13 - Unauthorized possession of or inappropriate use of computers, calculators and other forms of technology in course work, assignments, or examinations.	The UBSD Tribunal upheld the student's appeal and overturned the finding of academic dishonesty. Pursuant to s.6.3 of Policy S10.02, the Tribunal directed that the penalty imposed by the Respondent should be removed and any record of dishonesty associated with this incident should be removed from the Applicants' files.
21-6 21-7	Academic Dishonesty under SFU Policy S 10.01, section 2.3.3(d) - Cheating during an examination, including: the unauthorized possession, use, or sharing of an examination question sheet, an examination answer book, a completed examination or assignment, or other examination material; Section 2.3.6 - Cheating in assignments, projects, examinations, or other forms of evaluation by: (a) using, or attempting to use, another individual's answers; (b) providing questions and/or answers to other individuals.	The UBSD denied the student's appeal and upheld the finding of the Instructor that the Applicants had committed academic dishonesty. Pursuant to s.6.3 of Policy S10.02, the Tribunal directed that the penalty imposed by the Respondent remain in place.
21-8 21-9	Academic Dishonesty under SFU Policy S 10.01, section 2.3.3(d) - Cheating during an examination, including: the unauthorized possession, use, or sharing of an examination question sheet, an examination answer book, a completed examination or assignment, or other examination material; Section 2.3.6 - Cheating in assignments, projects, examinations, or other forms of evaluation by: (a) using, or attempting to use, another individual's answers; (b) providing questions and/or answers to other individuals; (c) in the case of students who work or study together, submitting identical or virtually identical assignments for evaluation unless permitted by the course instructor or supervisor.	The UBSD Tribunal upheld the student's appeal and overturned the finding of academic dishonesty. Pursuant to s.6.3 of Policy S10.02, the Tribunal directed that the penalty imposed by the Respondent should be removed and any record of dishonesty associated with this incident should be removed from the Applicants' files.
21-10 21-11	Academic Dishonesty under SFU Policy S 10.01, section 2.3.3(d) - Cheating during an examination, including: the unauthorized possession, use, or sharing of an examination question sheet, an examination answer book, a completed examination or assignment, or other examination material; Section 2.3.6 - Cheating in assignments, projects, examinations, or other forms of evaluation by: (a) using, or attempting to use, another individual's answers; (b) providing questions and/or answers to other individuals.	The UBSD denied the student's appeal and upheld the finding of the Instructor that the Applicants had committed academic dishonesty. Pursuant to s.6.3 of Policy S10.02, the Tribunal directed that the penalty imposed by the Respondent remain in place.

Student Discipline Summary

File #	Nature of Offence	Outcome
21-13	Academic Dishonesty under SFU Policy S 10.01, section 2.3.1(b) - Plagiarism, including: copying all or part of an essay or other assignment from an author or other person, including a tutor or student mentor, and presenting the material as the student's original work; Section 2.3.3 - Cheating during an examination, including: (c) the unauthorized possession or use of course notes or any other aids not approved by an instructor during an examination; (f) the unauthorized access or sharing of information or resources, in any format, pertaining to the examination; Section 2.3.4 - Submitting as one's original work an essay, project, thesis, presentation, other assignment, or 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 President accepted the unanimous recommendation of the UBSD that the student receive a six-semester suspension from Simon Fraser University.

Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals

Reporting Period
September 2020 – August 2021

The **Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals** (**SCODA**) heard six appeals during the period covered by this report. All hearings were conducted online using Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

SCODA Appeal No. 2021-01 (academic misconduct)

This case involved an undergraduate student in STAT 452 who was given an "FD" for handing in computer code that was identical to others in eleven assignments over a six-week period. The student 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 student offered little in the way of a defense, other than he was sorry and the "FD" would cause hardship. The members of SCODA agreed with the evidence presented by the professor, and did not find the statements of the student credible.

SCODA upheld the grade assigned by the Chair of the department

SCODA Appeal No. 2021-02 (academic misconduct)

This case involved an undergraduate student in CRIM 220 who conducted an online survey to approximately 30 individuals and used this information within a Research Proposal assignment without seeking research ethics approval. The instructor assigned a mark of 0/100 for the assignment, which led to a "D" in the course.

The student appealed the grade based on Policy S10.03, 4.1.3, "*that the penalty imposed on the student is excessive in all the circumstances of the case"*

This case involved a new issue for SCODA, namely the application of SFU's Integrity in Research and Misconduct in Research (policy R60.01) to an undergraduate research proposal.

<u>Policy R60.01</u>

In examining Policy S10.01, including Schedule A "Forms of Academic Dishonesty and Misconduct" SCODA found the word "data" mentioned only three times, and in the context of analyzing it with integrity, not falsifying it, and obtaining written permission to use it if it comes from confidential manuscripts, etc. Nowhere in the policy is there any mention of surveys or conduct related to surveys. Finally, there is no definition within the policy regarding what constitutes "research involving human subjects."

SCODA found that the policy, *by itself,* is not useful or appropriate to apply to an undergraduate student. It is too hidden to reasonably assume that a student will find it, too vague in its language to have any specific meaning within the context of a typical undergraduate research

assignment, and given the clear context of publishable research it is not clear at all if it is meant to apply to an undergraduate student.

SCODA recommended that Policy R60.01 be revised and rewritten to *include students*, or that a separate policy be made *for students*.

Mitigating Factors in this Case

SCODA concluded that there were significant mitigating factors in this particular case. It was the opinion of SCODA that these mitigating factors most likely revolved around legitimate misunderstandings by the TA, the student, and the instructor. SCODA members unanimously felt that all parties behaved in good faith and good conscience.

Absent the mitigating factors, the penalty of 0/100 points was appropriate and well within the spectrum of penalties the instructor had the right to impose. However, SCODA found that, given the extent of mitigating factors, the penalty was excessive in all circumstances of the case.

SCODA recommended that the student's "D" in the course be replaced with a "P."

SCODA Appeal No. 2021-03 (academic misconduct)

This case involved a graduate student in CHEM 759 who received an "F" grade for plagiarizing a major term paper. The student first appealed to UBSD, which upheld the decision of the instructor and department. The student then came to SCODA and appealed the grade 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 student failed to make any argument or provide any evidence that the penalty was excessive. A normal penalty for such graduate student conduct would have been an "FD."

SCODA upheld the decision of the department.

SCODA Appeal No. 2021-04 (academic misconduct)

This case involved an undergraduate student in ECON 201 who i) hired an impersonator to write both midterm exams and the final exam, ii) participated in the forgery of an SFU ID card, and iii) provided his SFU computing ID and password to an unauthorized third party to access the Canvas course material.

The original UBSD report concluded that

> *Because of the magnitude, brazenness, and criminal nature of the Respondent's academic dishonesty, this Tribunal of the UBSD ranks this case among the most extreme on record and concludes unanimously that it merits the maximum penalty that the university can impose. … This Tribunal of the University Board on Student Discipline unanimously*

> *recommends that the grade of "FD" in ECON 201 be confirmed and that the Respondent be suspended from SFU permanently.*

Subsequent to this the SFU President reduced the penalty to a 7-semester suspension. This reduced suspension was then appealed by the student grade 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 student made a brief argument, claiming that i) the penalty was not in line with similar cases, and that ii) the penalty is a hardship to him and affects his future prospects. SCODA members rejected the claim that the penalty was out of line. A review of all past cases showed many instances where the misconduct could be argued as less serious and yet received similar or harsher punishments. SCODA members also agreed with the sentiments of the UBSD that this was an exceptionally serious and excessive case of student misconduct, and that therefore, the consequences of the suspension were not a mitigating factor.

SCODA upheld the suspension assigned by the President.

SCODA Appeal No. 2021-05/06 (academic misconduct)

This case involved two siblings who are graduate students in the Beedie School of Business, MSc in Finance program. The students were enrolled in BUS 802 in Fall 2020, and wrote their final exams online in the same house. The TA grading the exams noticed similarities in their answers, which were later confirmed by the Professor. The Professor assigned a "C" grade for the course, but reported the incident to the Director of the program who assigned an "FD" for the course. The students argued that the collusion had been minimal, and appealed this decision to the UBSD. The UBSD concluded that the collusion on the exams was extensive, and went beyond the sharing of two multiple choice answers. Therefore, the UBSD upheld the "FD" penalty.

Subsequent to the UBSD decision, the Graduate Program Committee decided that the two students could continue in the MSc. program on the conditions that: the students take a course on academic ethics, maintain a 3.0 CGPA, retake BUS 802, and remain on probation for the duration of their program at SFU.

The two students then appealed to SCODA 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 two students argued that the penalty was excessive because it would inhibit their future career opportunities. They mentioned the pandemic as a mitigating factor, but did not explain why or how it could be a mitigating factor in student misconduct.

SCODA found no grounds for an excessive penalty, and upheld the "FD" grade.

SCODA Membership as of August 2021:

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
Christian Venhuizen, Beedie School of Business
Nabyl Merbouh, Faculty of Science

Students (Regular Member):
Susan Luu, Student Representative
Abhishek Parmar, Student Representative
Allan Lam, Student Representative

Students (Alternate Member):
Karan Pathania, Student Representative
Yehor Nabokev, Student Representative

Secretary:
Concetta Di Francesco, Senate and Academic Services

Douglas Allen, Chair (2020-2021)

April 25/22.
Date