



OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR
Student Services

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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate DATE April 30, 2024
FROM Tom Nault
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, 2021 to August 31, 2022.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Nault', written over a horizontal line.

Tom Nault
Registrar & Executive Director,
Student Enrollment



MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Tom Nault, Registrar **DATE** March 14, 2024

FROM Arlette Stewart
Coordinator, Academic Integrity
Senate and Academic Services

RE: Academic Discipline Report 2022-2023

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, 2022 and August 31, 2023.

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 535 incident reports filed between September 01, 2022 and August 31, 2023. The total number of reports for the previous academic year is 538.

International students were involved in 263 (49%) of the 535 cases. Graduate students were reported in 39 (7%) of the 535 cases, showing another minor but consistent increase in the number of graduate students that are represented within the total number of reports over the past two years.

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 (66%) compared to those categorized as plagiarism (33%) and fraud/misrepresentation (1%). The shift toward the majority of reports being categorized as cheating is coincident with the shift to emergency remote instruction and that trend has continued after the return to in person classes. 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. At the first level of decision making, the penalty of a “zero mark for the work” was the most common penalty assigned by instructors (66%) followed by a penalty of “reduced mark on the work” (21%). Cases that are escalated to the second level of decision making by 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 and/or a referral to UBSD recommending a term of suspension.

Table 3 provides a breakdown of incident reports by Faculty. All but one of the 535 reports are incidents of “academic dishonesty” which is defined as an incident occurring in a course. Included in the report is one incident of “academic misconduct” occurring outside a course; this incident was identified within the Registrar’s Office as a case of misrepresentation of credentials.

TABLE 1: Type of Incident

Type of Incident:	September 2019 to August 2020	September 2020 to August 2021	September 2021 to August 2022	September 2022 to August 2023
Plagiarism Examples: - Submitted AI generated paper that contained numerous expressions that do not occur in source material and fictitious attributions. - Minimally changing the wording from content sources with incomplete citation and paraphrasing. - Submitting essay that contains significant amount of material taken from sample essays on essay mill website.	155	203	179	142
Cheating on exams or assignments Examples: - Used ChatGPT to generate proofs for assignment without acknowledgement. - Using unauthorized aids for Canvas closed book quiz in online course. - Possession and use of smart watch during in-person exam. - Taking photographs of final exam with phone during in-person exam. - Re-submitting the assignment of another student who had taken the course in a previous semester. -	507	590	355	370
Fraud/Misrepresentation Examples: - Submitting a falsified Certificate of Illness letter to request a make-up exam. - Providing a third party one's SFU username and password which in turn provides full access to edit working documents for SFU courses including stored quizzes and assignments. - Submitting a falsified browser history to indicate that Canvas quiz was taken when IT confirmed that the student did not log in as required.	5	13	4	22
Academic Misconduct - submitting an altered transcript to a third party to gain an academic advantage				1
TOTAL	667	806	538	535

TABLE 2: Assignment of Penalties

Penalty	September 2019 to August 2020	September 2020 to August 2021	September 2021 to August 2022	September 2022 to August 2023
Assigned by Instructor				
Give the student a warning	50	56	41	53
Re-do the work or do supplementary work	35	10	24	29
Assign a grade penalty less harsh than 'F' for the work	113	233	118	111
Impose a failing mark for the work	469	507	355	355
Assigned by Chair or Registrar				
Issue a formal reprimand	4	52	22	26
Assign a grade less harsh than 'FD' for the course	8	32	17	18
Assign a grade of "FD"	20	29	28	25
Note: Decision makers can assign more than one penalty for every incident (e.g. FD grade and a referral to UBSD).				

TABLE 3: Prevalence of academic integrity reports by Faculty

Faculty	September 2019 to August 2020	September 2020 to August 2021	September 2021 to August 2022	September 2022 to August 2023	Percentage % of reports submitted by Faculty, September 2021 to August 2022
Applied Sciences	154	144	113	145	27
Arts & Social Sciences	186	242	178	190	36
Beedie School of Business	54	81	19	23	4
Communication, Art & Technology	25	12	42	14	3
Education	5	7	9	5	1
Environment	29	25	51	59	11
Health Sciences	5	25	27	6	1
Science	209	270	99	92	17
Academic Misconduct (outside a course)				1	
Total	667	806	538	535	100

University Board on Student Discipline

Reporting Period: September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023

UBSD Membership

Faculty: David Murphy (Coordinator), Communication (May 2014 – August 2023)
Shivanand Balram, Geography (January 2022 – December 2025)
Brenda Davison, Mathematics (February 2022 – January 2025)
Peter Liljedahl, Education (October 2020 – September 2023)
Gregory Baker, Computing Science (February 2021 – May 2024)

Students: Amanda Cronkite, Undergraduate – Business (October 2020 - September 2023)
Sophia Dobischok, Undergraduate - Science (September 2018 - September 2022)
Karmen Gill, Undergraduate – Science (October 2020 - September 2022)
Livia Poljak, Graduate – Education (October 2020 - September 2023)
Anum Khalid, Undergraduate – Psychology (October 2022 - September 2024)

Staff: Bettina Cenerelli, Arts & Social Sciences (November 2021 - October 2024)
Harriet Chicoine, Engineering Science (January 2010 – May 2023)
Amanda Woodhall, Applied Sciences (November 2021 – October 2024)

Eleven 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.



Steven Noel
Secretary, University Board on Student Discipline

Student Discipline Summary

File # Nature of Offence Outcome

22-5	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 five-semester suspension from Simon Fraser University.
22-6 22-7	Academic Dishonesty under SFU Policy S 10.01, section 2.3.3 - Cheating during an examination, including: (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.	The UBSD 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 be removed and any record of dishonesty associated with this incident be removed from the Applicants' files.
22-8	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; (b) 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; (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 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 be removed and any record of dishonesty associated with this incident be removed from the Applicants' files.
22-10	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; (b) 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.	The UBSD 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 be removed and any record of dishonesty associated with this incident be removed from the Applicants' files.
22-11	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.	The UBSD denied the student's appeal and upheld the finding of the Instructor that the Applicant 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.
23-1	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; (b) 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; (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 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 be removed and any record of dishonesty associated with this incident be removed from the Applicants' files.

Student Discipline Summary

File #	Nature of Offence	Outcome
23-2	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; section 2.3.3 - Cheating during an examination, including: (b) concealing information pertaining to the examination in the examination room, in washrooms, or other places in the vicinity of the examination room; (c) the unauthorized use of devices, such as mobile phones, to receive or share information pertaining to the examination.	The President accepted the unanimous recommendation of the UBSD that the student receive a two-semester suspension from Simon Fraser University. It was also suggested that the student seek counsel from services such as the Office of Student Support, Rights & Responsibilities (SSRR), along with Academic Advising.
23-3	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.	The President accepted the unanimous recommendation of the UBSD that the student receive a one-semester suspension from Simon Fraser University.
23-4	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; (b) 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; (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 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 be removed and any record of dishonesty associated with this incident be removed from the Applicants' files.
24-5	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; (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; (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 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.

Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals

Reporting Period September 2022 – August 2023

The **Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals (SCODA)** heard one appeal during the period covered by this report. The hearing was conducted online using Zoom.

SCODA Appeal No. 2022-03 (academic misconduct)

This case involved an undergraduate student in HSCI 478 who received an “FD” for a final timed exam in the course. The Appellant came to campus to write the exam and while walking through campus encountered another student who was in the process of writing their assessment and briefly discussed the assessment with them. When marking the exam, the instructor noticed that a group of students provided similar examples and explanations in the answers. Upon investigating the matter, the instructor spoke to those students involved. The Appellant originally denied any involvement discussing the exam. The instructor emailed those students involved and explained that they would be filing an Academic Incident Report (AIR) and would offer “lenient penalties” to those students who “came clean”. As a result, the Appellant admitted that they collaborated with a fellow student on two exam questions. The instructor gave the Appellant a zero grade for the final exam and filed the AIR with the Registrar.

Upon filing an AIR with the Registrar’s Office, it became clear that the Appellant had a history of integrity incidents. The Registrar met with the Appellant to discuss the incident and provide them with an opportunity to defend their case. Although the Appellant denied intentionally discussing the exam with the other student, the Registrar found that the Appellant “deliberately spoke to another student regarding the examination knowing that they had not yet written the exam”. The Registrar concluded that the incident constituted a violation of the University’s Academic Integrity policy, and is prohibited under Schedule A, sections 2.3.2 and 2.3.3

When considering their decision on how to reprimand the Appellant, the Registrar noted that there was a previous infraction of a similar nature on the Appellant’s file. The Registrar felt that as a senior student the Appellant should uphold academic integrity and know that they have a responsibility to adhere to the rules of academic integrity. After further consultation with respective senior department administrators, the Registrar decided to impose an additional grade penalty by assigning the Appellant a grade of “FD” for HSCI 478 (spring 2022).

The Applicant appealed to SCODA pursuant to section 4.1.1 and 4.1.3 of Policy No. 10.03 that: “a procedural error occurred of sufficient magnitude that it may reasonably be said to have affected the fairness of the process or altered the outcome of the case” and “that the penalty imposed on the student is excessive in all the circumstances of the case”.

After hearing the parties, SCODA concluded that there was no evidentiary basis established by the Appellant to show any procedural error under section 4.1.1 of Policy No. 10.03. However, the panel found that the penalty of an “FD” grade imposed by the Registrar, in this instance was excessive and recommended that it be substituted with a grade of “F”.

SCODA Membership as of August 2023:

Chair: Shafik Bhalloo, Beedie School of Business
Vice-Chair: Douglas Allen, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Faculty (Regular Member):
Ingrid Northwood, Faculty of Science

Faculty (Alternate Member):
Leanne Barlow, Beedie School of Business
Abraham Punnen, Faculty of Science

Students (Regular Member):
Abhishek Parmar, Student Representative
Priyanka Dhesa, Student Representative
Mussaab Manzer, Student Representative

Students (Alternate Member):
Nava Karimi, Student Representative
Aaron Fung, Student Representative

Secretary:
Concetta Di Francesco, Senate and Academic Services



Shafik Bhalloo, Chair (2022-2023)

April 25, 2024

Date