



April 26, 2013

Annual Report from the Senate Student Appeals Committee

The majority of the committee's work continues to be done within the sub-committee, which consists of academic advisors, at least one faculty member, at least one UWSA senator, the Chair (non-voting), and certain non-voting members who occasionally attend to present special appeals. The sub-committee meets weekly, except over July and August, and considers appeals related to graduation, retroactive withdrawal, incomplete term work, deferred final exams, re-admission, and other appeals as set out in the Senate Standing Rules. Minutes of the sub-committee meetings summarize appeals heard and decisions rendered.

A student who is not satisfied with the sub-committee's decision may request a meeting with the Chair of the committee; if new information is presented, the sub-committee may hear the appeal again. If appeals cannot be resolved (by consensus) at the sub-committee level, a meeting of the full Senate Student Appeals Committee is called by the Chair to consider the case, including a presentation made by the student if she/he desires. The full committee did not have to meet to consider any undergraduate appeals this year.

The full committee did, however, meet several times this year to hear and rule on two graduate student appeals. This required the secondment of faculty representatives from the Senate Graduate Studies Committee and a graduate student representative from the UWSA. As was the case in the previous year, it was evident that the normal structure of the Senate Student Appeals Committee is not well positioned to deal with graduate student appeals. The Chair met with the Dean of Graduate Studies (and later the Acting Dean of Graduate Studies) and members of the Graduate Studies Committee to discuss the situation, and progress was made to address the need for an appeal process specific to graduate students. It is expected that a new policy and procedure will be in place soon.

I want to thank the staff and faculty members who contributed to this important committee over the last year. He is especially grateful for the diligence and outstanding service provided by the University's student advisers.

Respectfully submitted by:

Danny Blair, Associate Dean of Science
Chair, Senate Student Appeals Committee