

**Report of the Senate Academic Standards and Misconduct Committee (SASMC)
Submitted to the Office of the Corporate Secretary and General Course
University of Winnipeg, 5 May 2015**

As Chair of the Senate Academic Standards and Misconduct Committee, I submit the following Report to Senate for the busy 2014-2015 academic year.

Academic Misconduct: The Senate Academic Misconduct Committee (SAMC) normally meets four times a year to deal with cases of student academic misconduct (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) from PACE and the Faculties of Arts, of Business and Economics, of Education, of Kinesiology, and of Science.

In the year under review, the SAMC met numerous times to deal with fifty-four (54) cases. Forty-two (42) cases were allegations of plagiarism, ten (10) were allegations of cheating, and two (2) were allegations of academic misconduct without sufficient evidence.

Of the fifty-two (52) cases presented with sufficient evidence, twenty-five (25) of the cases in question were given an F in the assignment, seven (7) were given an F in the course, two (2) were given a suspension, and one (1) an expulsion. Six (6) of the exams in question were given an F, and three (3) tests were awarded an F. In four (4) cases a notation alone was placed into the file, and nine (9) cases were dismissed.

As per procedure, a notation was placed into the file of the forty-three (43) cases where academic misconduct was found and will be removed only upon graduation.

There were two (2) appeals to the Senate Academic Misconduct Appeals Committee (SAMAC), with one appeal being denied and the other being revised to a suspension.

Over this year, the case load has risen by 61%, from thirty-three (33) to fifty-four (54).

As noted in previous annual reports to Senate, the SAMC remains concerned by the common inability of students who appear before the Committee to be prepared for the rigor of academic research, writing, and scholarship. In particular, we continue to be disturbed by student claims of not fully understanding or having been taught the meaning of plagiarism, when Faculty members are clearly providing detailed instruction in their teaching and syllabi.

Discussion has begun regarding potential systemic ways of addressing this concern.

At the time of this report, there are eight (8) cases pending hearings with the SAMC.

Academic Misconduct Policy: In conjunction with Colin Morrison, General Counsel and University Secretary, and Debra Radi, Policy and Governance Officer, the SAMC revised the *University of Winnipeg Policy on Student Academic Misconduct*. The revised policy was approved by Senate on January 21, 2015. The result of this change is two separate documents, the *Academic Misconduct Policy* and *Academic Misconduct Procedures*, which distinguish policy from procedure and attempt to clarify and make the procedures more efficient.

Academic Standards: Grades and Comparative Course Index (CCI)

The work of the Committee this year also included an informal review of the acceptance of the 2012 revised CCI procedure. As of the 2012 Spring Term, the CCI was “run” and made available to Departments, Programs and units as a tool to oversee its grades and receive “local” (for e.g. Department, DRC) approval. The preliminary results from this informal assessment, which will continue in the future, were that most Departments, Programs and Units that participated in the voluntary review are satisfied with the revised procedure.

The Committee acts only in problematic cases, of which there were none this year.

Fiona J. Green
Chair, Senate Academic Standards and Misconduct Committee