



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

Report of the Senate Academic Standards and Misconduct Committee (SASMC) Submitted to the Office of the Corporate Secretary and General Counsel University of Winnipeg, 26 April 2019

As Chair of the Senate Academic Standards and Misconduct Committee (SASMC), I submit the following Report to Senate for the 2018-19 academic year.

Academic Misconduct: The Senate Academic Standards and Misconduct Committee normally meets twice a month throughout the three academic terms to deal with cases of student academic misconduct from PACE, the Faculties of Arts, of Business and Economics, of Education, of Kinesiology, and of Science and of Graduate Studies.

In the year under review (May 1, 2018 - April 25, 2019), the SASMC dealt with seventy-one (71) cases. There were forty-two (42) allegations of plagiarism and twenty-nine (29) allegations of cheating on tests and exams.

Of the seventy-one (71) cases reviewed, fifteen (15) cases were exonerated because of actual innocence or insufficient evidence. At the time of this report, there are six (6) cases pending hearings with the SASMC.

In fifty (50) cases there was a finding of academic misconduct and, as per procedure, students received notations in their academic files that will be removed upon graduation. In twenty (20) of those cases, students were given an F in the assignment, two (2) had their assignment grades lowered, and two (2) were given an F in the course. Seven (7) were given an F in a test or exam and one (1) had a test grade lowered. Fourteen (14) were offered the opportunity to rewrite. In two (2) cases a notation alone was placed into the file. In two (2) other cases, students withdrew from a course in which an instructor had reported them for possible misconduct but a notation was placed in their file. No (0) cases resulted in suspension. Two (2) cases were reviewed by the Senate Academic Misconduct Appeals Committee, with SASMC's decisions upheld in both cases.

Acting Chair of SASMC (for 2018) Dr. Jaqueline McLeod Rogers worked with Dr. Sheela Ramanna and a team of Applied Computer Science students to develop a student tutorial to address issues of academic integrity and academic misconduct. The current Chair will continue to develop this project.

Members of the Committee have identified a number of issues in the context of cases heard in the past year:

- the likelihood that instructors are not reporting some instances of possible misconduct because of the perceived onerousness of the process;
- the possibility of allowing instructors to penalize students for plagiarizing small parts of an assignment (e.g., 0 on a test question worth 5% of the whole test value);

- also related to the above, the need for additional training for instructors and additional templates for notifications and reports to DRCs and to SASMC;
- the over-representation of international students in cases reported;
- the use of editorial services (informal and commercial) to produce or heavily edit assignments; and,
- the use of Google Translate to translate other authors' material from another language to English to make it more difficult for markers to identify sources of plagiarized text;

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Taylor, Associate Dean of Arts
Chair, Senate Academic Standards and Misconduct Committee