

Report of the Senate Academic Standards and Misconduct Committee (SASMC)
University of Winnipeg, April 28, 2022

As Chair of the Senate Academic Standards and Misconduct Committee (SASMC), I submit the following report to Senate for the 2021-22 academic year.

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 as well as the Faculties of Arts, Business and Economics, Education, Kinesiology, Science, and Graduate Studies.

In the year under review, May 2021-April 2022, the SASMC reviewed 242 cases, a substantial increase over last year's report of 174. Of the 224 cases where misconduct occurred, there were 119 cases of cheating, 98 of plagiarism, 6 allegations of aiding and abetting, and 1 of falsifying an interview.

Seventy-four (74) students received a penalty of 0 on an assignment. Of these,

- 1 received an extra 10% deduction, and was asked to send a letter of apology for falsifying an interview, which, if not met, would result in a 0 in the course;
- 1 was asked to take Academic Writing;
- 2 received an additional 10% deduction from the final grade.

Eighty-eight (88) students received a penalty of 0 on a final exam/test/midterm/quiz/lab exam. Of these,

- 3 received an additional 10% deduction in the overall course grade
- 3 received a 10% deduction from the final exam grade.

Thirty-three (33) students received an F in the course. Of these, 4 were given suspensions and 1 was given an F retroactively. These students had one or more previous instances of academic misconduct on file.

There were 16 cases where academic misconduct did occur, but no penalty was levied. In 9 cases students were given the opportunity to rewrite the exam, or redo and resubmit an assignment with a 10% deduction on the assignment or final course grade. In 1 case, the student was allowed to resubmit the assignment with a 25% deduction from the final course grade.

In 18 cases the committee concluded there was no misconduct.

The rise in the number of academic misconduct cases this year was due largely to the pandemic. Pre-pandemic case numbers were certainly lower: the SASMC saw 25 cases in 2017-18, 71 in 2018-2019, and 68 in 2019-2020. An increase in cheating cases, for example, occurred with the move to online midterms and final exams. There are, however, other factors at play. As many instructors know, there's a plethora of online cheating websites (some masquerading as "homework" sites) that students have access to. The committee also witnessed firsthand the desperation experienced in particular by international students who found themselves

overwhelmed by university work for which they were ill prepared. These past two years, such difficulties amongst our international students have been intensified by financial worry, concerns about family in other countries, and personal responsibilities. Some students also appear to be unfamiliar with the conventions of academic research and writing and require additional instruction. To address this concern, university administration approved an Instructor position in the department of Rhetoric, Writing, and Communications with EAL expertise and experience. Other pilot initiatives and pedagogical approaches are being explored. The committee recognizes that the recent increase in misconduct cases has also increased the workload (including the emotional workload) of faculty members. The committee extends its thanks to the instructors, DRCs, and administrative assistants who have committed their time and attention to this difficult process.

I submit this report with thanks to the 2021-2022 members of the SASMC:

Anne-Laurence Caudano
Althea Dunlop (UWSA representative)
Esmat Elhami
Hope McIntyre
Heather Milne
Jeffrey Newmark
Colin Russell (Registrar)
Heather Snell

Senate can trust that these members gave each case careful deliberation. Special thanks to Jackie Benson, who is efficient, precise, and astute in her administrative support for this committee.

Respectfully,
Tracy Whalen
Chair, Senate Academic Standards and Misconduct Committee