

Academic Ombud's Report to the Senate

Thank you Professor Hippisley, Senators and guests.

It is my pleasure to present the Academic Ombud Report for the 2013—2014 Academic Year. I would like to first thank Laura Anshel for the concise statistical report, which will be included in the senate minutes for your future reference.

During the 2013-2014 academic year, the Academic Ombud Services Office handled 497 issues including non-academic offense issues, academic offense issues, and appeals sent to the University Appeals Board (2012/13 (N=537); 2011/12 (N=529); 2010/11 (N=506); 2009/10 (N=482)). The number of cases involving academic offenses decreased this year to 132 (compared with 191, 177, and 139 for the three previous years). Ten of the academic offenses were 2nd offenses and one was a 3rd offense leaving 121 first offenses. Of the total number of academic offense cases (132), 109 students (83%) had no contact with the Ombud, 11 students contacted the Ombud but decided not to appeal, and 8 students (under 10%) charged with an academic offense appealed their academic offense charge. One case involved cheating and the other seven were for charges of plagiarism. The academic appeal for cheating was denied. Of the seven students who appealed charges of plagiarism, two appealed the offense charge (1 upheld; 1 denied), and five students appealed the severity of the offense (4 upheld; 1 denied).

Please do not hesitate to contact the Academic Ombud Services Office if Laura or I can assist you in any way.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the Academic Ombud.



Yearly Comparisons					
	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10
Total Cases	497	537	529	506	482
Non-Academic Offense Issues	365	346	352	367	377
Academic Offense Issues	132	191	177	139	105
Appeals sent to the UAB	24	36	28	16	34
Grade	9	17	17	5	27
Cheating	1	1	5	4	0
Plagiarism	7	15	6	5	4
Progress in Program/Other	3	1	2	2	3
Retroactive Withdrawal	0	2	0	0	0

ACADEMIC OMBUD SERVICES STATISTICAL REPORT
Sonja Feist-Price 2013/14

Total Number of Cases 497
Questions or Referrals (single contacts less than an hour) ~ 875

I. Non-Academic Offense Cases:

DESCRIPTION OF CASES

Attendance	42
Classroom Policy Violation	1
Exam/Class Requirements	51
Grades	105
Instruction	50
Personal Problems	14
Plagiarism/Cheating Policy	15
Progress/Promotion	48
Retroactive Withdrawal	3
University Policy	36
Total	365

CLASSIFICATION OF SOURCE

Freshman	66
Sophomore	69
Junior	53
Senior	54
Graduate Student	45
Professional College Student	9
Faculty	61
Staff	8
Total	365

II. Academic Offense Cases:

Academic Offense: Cheating	39
Academic Offense: Plagiarism	93
No Contact with Ombud (109)	
Contacted Ombud; No Appeal (11)	
Contacted Ombud; Sent to UAB (12)	
Total	132

CLASSIFICATION OF THE STUDENT

Freshman	48
Sophomore	23
Junior	22
Senior	30
Graduate	9
Total	132

COLLEGE WHERE OFFENSE ORIGINATED

College of Agriculture	1
College of Arts & Sciences	92
Gatton College of Business & Economics	3
College of Communication & Information	8
College of Dentistry	
College of Design	
College of Education	3
College of Engineering	3
College of Fine Arts	3
College of Health Sciences	
Honors Program	
College of Law	
Martin School of Public Policy	
College of Medicine	
College of Nursing	13
Patterson School of Diplomacy	
College of Pharmacy	
College of Public Health	
College of Social Work	6
Undergraduate Studies	
Total	132

III. Cases Sent to the University Appeals Board:

TYPES OF APPEALS SENT TO THE BOARD

Academic Offense Appeals	8
Grade Appeals	9
Retroactive Withdrawal Appeals	0
Other Appeals	3
In Progress (not yet heard)	4
Total	24

Academic Offense Appeals

	Upheld	Denied	Total
Plagiarism: Appealed Severity	4	1	5
Plagiarism: Appealed Charge	1	1	2
Plagiarism: Appealed Charge and Severity			0
Cheating: Appealed Charge		1	1
Total		Total	8

Grade Appeals

With Merit from the Ombud:	Upheld	1
	Denied	1
	Total	2
With No Merit from the Ombud:	Upheld	1
	Overtured	1
	Uncontested	1
	Not Yet Heard	4
	Total	7

Other Appeals

Classroom Policy Violation	1
Remove Course from Record	1
Remove Letter of Warning from Record	1
Total	3