Consequences of Plagiarism

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Student Conduct

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- Click on 'A-Z Index'



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Click on 'Registrar' to access the 'Office of the Registrar' web page



 Click on 'Student Conduct' to access the 'Student Conduct -Regulations and Procedures' web page.



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University Assessment Disciplinary Board

University Assessment Regulations, 2009

http://www.um.edu.mt/ data/assets/pdf file/0010/24868/Assessment Regulations.pdf

Proceedings of the University Assessment Disciplinary Board http://www.um.edu.mt/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/179175/Proc eedings-of-University-Assessment-Disciplinary-Board.pdf

http://www.um.edu.mt/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/24868/Assessment_Regulations.pdf

- Plagiarism
- A study-unit of less than 8 ECTS credits
- First Offence

41. (1) When students are alleged to have committed a breach of any of the provisions in regulation 39 (b) in work submitted for Study-Units to which less than 8 credits are assigned, this shall be investigated by the Faculty Assessment Disciplinary Board of the Faculty offering the study-unit, composed of

- the Dean of the Faculty or his delegate,
- the Head of Department or his delegate and
- a student from among the students' representatives on the Faculty Board.

The academic who reports the case shall not form part of the Faculty Assessment Disciplinary Board.

- 41(2) When plagiarism is established to have occurred, the Faculty Assessment Disciplinary Board shall, in the case of plagiarism deemed to be minor, being the student's first offence:
- (a) issue an oral or written reprimand; and/or
- (b) reduce the mark of the Assessment or of the relevant Assessment component if applicable, down to, and including, the mark of zero with or without the possibility of reassessment.

Major Plagiarism



University Assessment Disciplinary Board

41(4) If plagiarism is detected after the result of a study-unit has been published or after an award has been conferred, the University Assessment Disciplinary Board may direct that the result of the study-unit be annulled and/or that the award be withdrawn.

University Assessment Disciplinary Board

- Plagiarism (more than 8 ECTS credits)
- There is no percentage of similarity index that is acceptable

University Assessment Disciplinary Board

MEMBERS

- (a)the Rector or delegate, as Chairman
- (b)the Registrar, as Vice-Chairman
- (c)an academic appointed by Senate
- (d)the Dean of the Faculty offering the course on which the student is registered, or his/her delegate, provided that these academics have not been involved in the assessment of the student in the study-unit, and
- (e) a student or his alternate appointed from among the students' representatives on Senate, provided that any one case is considered by the same student representative.

- Secretary of UADB receives report
- Within fifteen [15] working days from the day the report is received by the Secretary of the UADB, or by not later than fifteen [15] working days after the last day of the student's examinations, the Secretary shall inform the student:
 - (a) the reported breach of the Regulations (misdemeanour[s]);
 - (b) the provision/s regulating the misdemeanour(s);
 - (c)the date, time and venue of the meeting of the UADB;

- (d) the possibility to be accompanied by a family member or personal friend or student colleague;
- (e) the possibility to be accompanied by a legal adviser (to provide support not legal representation). The student shall inform the Secretary of the UADB of the intention to be so accompanied at least five [5] working days before the meeting and shall be responsible for all arrangements involving the legal adviser;

(f) the possibility of calling a witness/es, in which case the student shall indicate the name of such person/s to the Secretary of the UADB, together with the reason for their attendance, at least five [5] working days before the meeting and shall make all necessary arrangements for the witness(es) to attend. If the witness is a member of staff of the University or an invigilator, the Secretary of the UADB shall make the necessary arrangements for his/her attendance.

The student shall be asked to consider taking either one of the following options:

- (a)to admit the charge/s, in which case the student shall not normally be called to appear before the UADB; or
- (b)to contest the charge/s, in which case the student shall be called to appear before the UADB.

Should the student opt for 4.3(a), the student shall, within fifteen [15] working days from the date of the letter/e-mail, send a written statement to the Secretary admitting the charge/s. The student may also include any relevant details which should be made known to the UADB.

Should the student opt for (b) the student shall within fifteen [15] working days from the date of the letter/e-mail, send a written statement to the Secretary stating that s/he will be contesting the charge/s. Failure to reply shall be deemed to mean that the charge/s is/are being contested and the Board shall proceed to consider the case.

In the case of (b), the UADB shall endeavour to hold the meeting within thirty [30] working days from when the notification was sent to the student.

The Chairman introduces the members and read the charge.

The student shall be invited to make a statement and to produce evidence in rebuttal to the charge.

The student leaves the room.

The members continue discussing the case and take a decision which is communicated to the student via e-mail and letter.

Penalties shall differ in severity depending on:

- the extent and nature of the breach of these regulations as ascertained by the Assessment Disciplinary Board,
- previous instances of cheating by the student, and
- any extenuating circumstances.

Penalties that may be applied by the UADB include any one or more of the following:

- (a)oral or written reprimand;
- (b)imposition of a fine not exceeding €150;
- (c)reduction of the mark for the specific Assessment component down to, and including, the mark of zero with or without the possibility of a reassessment. If reassessment is allowed, students shall be eligible to not more than a mark of 45% in that component;

- (d) reduction of the overall mark for the Study-Unit down to and including mark of zero with or without the possibility of a reassessment. If reassessment is allowed, students shall be eligible to not more than a mark of 45%;
- (e) cancellation of all, or of a number of successfully completed Study-Units taken during the same semester, with the cancelled Study-Units to be assessed as a first sit at the next available opportunity when any mark not higher than the original can be obtained;

- (f) failure in the year as a whole with the possibility to repeat the year only if eligible in terms of the regulations or bye-laws governing the Course;
- (g) reduction in the classification of the degree;
- (h) suspension of studies of up to one academic year; during the period of suspension the student's right to enter or remain on any property or premises of the University may be limited or totally withheld;

- (i) expulsion from the University; a student who has been expelled may only be allowed readmission with the permission of Senate that can only be granted after the lapse of three years from the date of the expulsion; and
- (j) any one or more of the penalties listed above suspended for the duration of the student's studies at the University and conditional to the student not being found guilty of a breach of these regulations a subsequent time.

Any penalty imposed on the student shall be in accordance with the Regulations.

The penalty imposed shall be recorded in the student's file. This information will be kept confidential and subject to the laws that govern the protection of personal data.

Decisions taken by the Assessment Disciplinary Board shall have immediate effect but all decisions taken are to be communicated to Senate at its first meeting following the taking of any decision.

47. (1) The Assessment Disciplinary Board may, in special circumstances, **reconsider** its decision.

(2) For the purpose of this regulation, "special circumstances" means only when **new evidence** is available which could not have been provided earlier to the Assessment Disciplinary Board.

- (3) Before reconsidering the case, the Assessment Disciplinary Board shall first determine whether such evidence is **new evidence** which could not have been provided earlier to the Assessment Disciplinary Board when the case was being heard.
- (4) A request for reconsideration shall be made to the Assessment Disciplinary Board not later than fifteen days from the date of notification of the Assessment Disciplinary Board's decision to the student requesting the reconsideration.

