

# Faculty of education says no to cheating student

by Heather Sangster

A student is angry that her acceptance to the faculty of education's consecutive teacher education programme for the 1989-90 academic year was rescinded and her application for the same programme for this academic year was "immediately rejected."

The student, who wished to remain anonymous, was convicted of academic dishonesty last year because she bought essays from the Custom Essay Service (see accompanying story). She claims she used the service twice, for essays worth 10 and 15 per cent, because she was sick most of the academic year and was behind in her work. As a penalty, she received a failed mark for a course and a half and a notation of academic dishonesty on her transcripts for five years.

When the student was interviewed for a position in

the consecutive programme, she said she informed both interviewers of her record and asked if she should consider withdrawing her application. She claimed the interviewers replied, "Don't worry, we'll finish the interview. We are glad you were honest enough to tell us." The student said that the interviewers made note of her record.

The student received a letter in June 1989 that stated she was accepted into the programme. In a subsequent interview about the essay service with the associate dean of arts, Shirley Katz, the student told Katz, on the advice of her lawyer and hoping it would lessen her academic penalty, that she had been accepted into the programme. The student said Katz was quite surprised to discover that the faculty of education would admit her. The student then said that Katz wrote a letter to the faculty outlining her charges.

The student received a

phone call from a secretary in the faculty of education the Friday before the Monday she was supposed to register for the programme. The secretary told her that the faculty had deferred her admission until "her situation was resolved."

**'If a student's record contains a serious academic offence, then there is no question that we do not consider that person.'**

The student then spoke to the dean of education, Andrew Effrat. She claims that Effrat told her there was nothing the faculty could do. Effrat allegedly said that admissions overlooked her academic dishonesty when it first accepted her. She claims that admissions later checked a list of students' names with histories of aca-

demical dishonesty, found her name on it and deferred her application. The student claims Effrat said he was unavailable for an appointment to further discuss the case.

The student asked Effrat about her chances for admission into the programme next year. She claims Effrat told her to keep up her marks and continue with her volunteer work and she would have a good chance next year.

On April 22, 1990, the student received a rejection letter for her application to the 1990-91 programme. She went to the dean's office last Thursday to inquire about her file and was told by the dean's secretary, "The Dean does not speak to students."

In an *Excalibur* interview, Effrat denied that anyone in his office made that statement. "I spend a lot of time talking to students. It is our associate dean in charge of pre-service programmes, Louise Lewin, who normally

handles all appeals and matters of this nature, and perhaps there was some confusion there."

The dean said that his faculty does its best to "give candidates reasons for why they were not accepted as long as it doesn't involve revealing confidential material."

Effrat said that even though the student's interviewers made note of her academic dishonesty, the interviewers do not make the final decision. "We take a whole range of things into account. If it is brought to our attention that a student's record contains a serious academic offence, then there is no question that we do not consider that person."

The dean added that it is the responsibility of the faculty to ensure that the lives and well-being of minors in the educational system are protected and that teachers must have model behaviour for their students.

The student questioned the confidentiality of the alleged "list of students with academic dishonesty records." She said that she was under the impression that the list (compiled of students with cheating records from the faculty of arts) was not to be circulated to other faculties.

The dean would not say whether there was a list circulating in his faculty. He suggested that this information is "somehow checked by the people responsible for the admissions process," but he has not seen any list.



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