

GIPA2023/07 – Released set of information

Scope:

- Report to Academic Board and Council under [s16.8](#) of the student rules for 2021 and 2022.

DOCUMENT 7.1

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY

ACADEMIC BOARD

AGENDA ITEM 7.1

MEETING 23/1

MR WILLIAM PATERSON
UNIVERSITY SECRETARY

22 MARCH 2023

2022 ANNUAL REPORT ON STUDENT MISCONDUCT AND APPEAL MATTERS

Purpose

To provide Academic Board and Council a report on all student misconduct and appeal matters.

Executive summary

The 2022 Annual Report on Student Misconduct and Appeal Matters provides detailed information on the number of student misconduct matters including appeals dealt with during 2022. The data includes a breakdown of misconduct types and year to year comparisons. Information is provided on the cases considered by the University Student Conduct Committee and the Student Misconduct Appeals Committee.

Recommendations

Academic Board to:

- .1 receive and note the report as detailed in Document 7.1 – *2022 Annual Report on Student Misconduct and Appeal Matters*; and
- .2 recommend Council to note the 2022 Annual Report on Student Misconduct and Appeal Matters.

MATTERS FOR NOTING

Background/Context

The Student Misconduct and Appeal Rules are located in Section 16 of the Student Rules.

Report

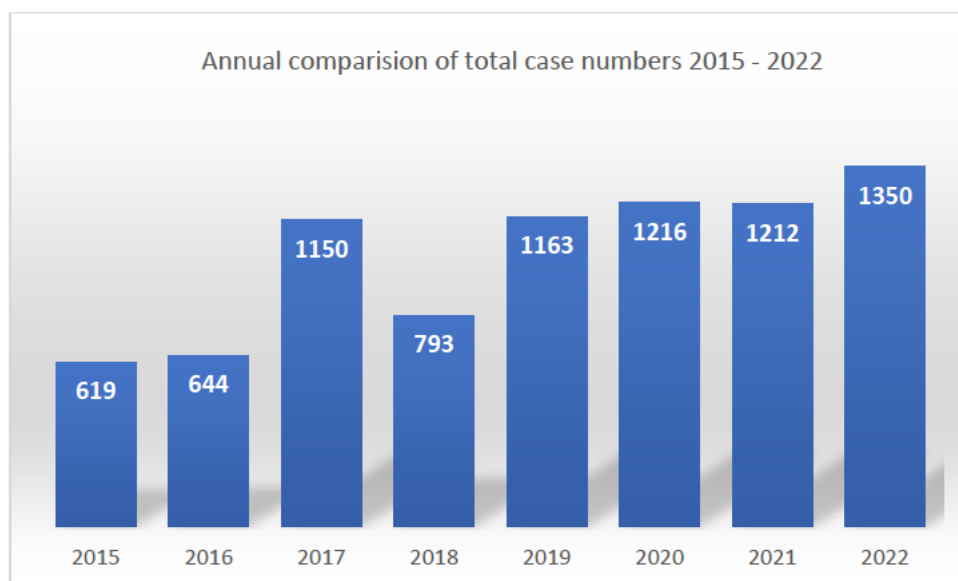
To assist in the delivery of a student-centred model of managing student misconduct and appeals, one major reform of replacing the University Student Conduct Committee (USCC) with a single decision maker, this reform was approved by Council on 30 November 2022. GSU will provide a post implementation review report to Academic Board (through the Teaching and Learning Committee) after twelve months of operation to assess whether the intended improvements have been realised.

The decision-makers in the student misconduct process are the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education and Students) (as the Vice-Chancellor's nominee), Responsible Academic Officers (RAOs), Director, Governance Support Unit (GSU), University Student Conduct Committee (USCC) and the Student Misconduct Appeals Committee.

2022 Student misconduct caseload

Table 1 shows the annual comparison of total case numbers. In 2022, there were 1,350 cases whereas in 2021 there were 1212 cases, an increase of 138 cases. The number of student misconduct cases of 1,350 represents 3.03 per cent of our 2022 student population of 44,615 and the volume of cases is even smaller if the total volume of assessment is taken into account.

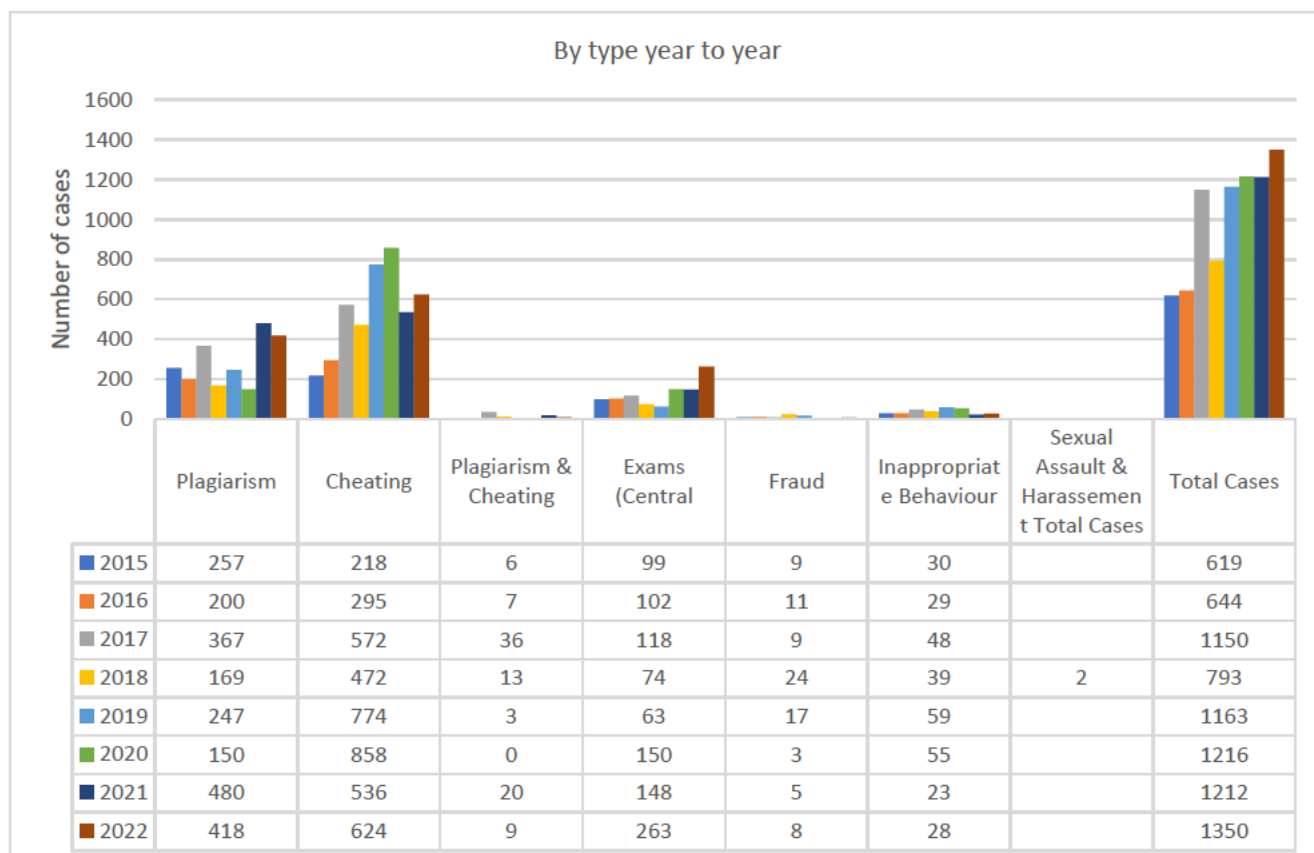
Table 1: Annual comparison of total case numbers 2015 – 2022



Student misconduct by type year to year

Table 2 shows misconduct by type with year to year comparisons from 2015. In 2022, 116 cases were referred back to the faculties due to a range of circumstances including there being insufficient evidence to pursue misconduct allegations.

In 2022, there were 263 exams cases, an increase of 115 from 2021. Of the 263 cases in 2022, 224 were online ProctorU cases. It was identified that students were incorrectly selecting a virtual camera rather than the camera on their device. Examinations Unit are now managing most of these cases as a technical issue.

Table 2: Student Misconduct by Type 2015 – 2022

Numbers of Undergraduate and Postgraduate involved in Student Misconduct

As shown in Table 3, from 2021 to 2022 there has been an increase in number of both undergraduate student and postgraduate student misconduct cases.

Table 3: Numbers of Undergraduate and Postgraduate involved in Student Misconduct

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Undergraduate	333	453	810	629	914	996	988	1118
Postgraduate	286	191	340	164	249	220	224	232
Total	619	644	1150	793	1163	1216	1212	1350

Student misconduct committees' meetings

Student misconduct cases have historically been considered by two UTS committees – the University Student Conduct Committee (USCC) or the Student Misconduct Appeals Committee (SMAC).

Student misconduct committees are unlike other UTS committees, as Student misconduct committees' members are drawn from panels of students and staff from across UTS for each meeting.

The difference between the two misconduct committees is that the USCC enquires into an allegation of student misconduct where the student denies the allegation (excluding plagiarism) or if the decision-maker is seeking a suspension or exclusion penalty. If the USCC determines there has been an act of misconduct and accepts the Director, Governance Support Unit (or nominee) submission on penalty or penalties the decision is imposed. If the USCC does not accept the submission on penalty or penalties the matter is referred to the DVC (Education and Students) (as the Vice-Chancellor’s nominee) for a decision. The SMAC makes determinations in relation to appeals and the decision of the SMAC is the final decision of UTS.

Table 4: USCC and SMAC 2015-2022 Figures

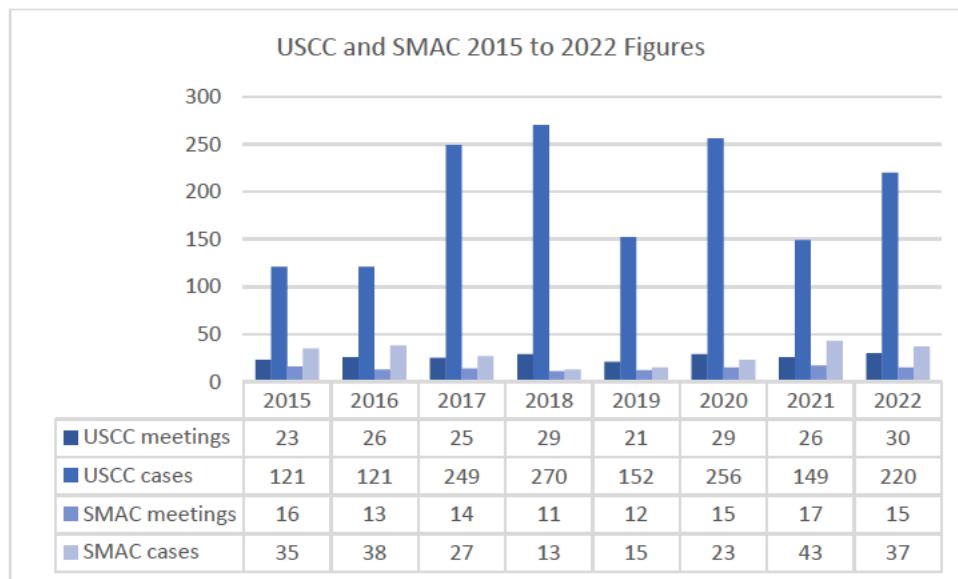


Table 4 shows in 2022, 30 USCC meetings were held (compared with 26 meetings in 2021) and considered 220 cases and 15 SMAC meetings held which determined 37 appeals. The number of USCC cases heard in 2022 increased to 220, whereas 149 cases were heard in 2021 an increase of 71 cases heard by the USCC, this is due to students denying allegations and the decision-maker referring admission of cases to a USCC seeking a suspension or exclusion penalty.

Since 2013, the number of meetings and cases heard by the USCC has been increasing year by year. Based upon this increase, a view was formed that current processes and structures supporting this caseload was not sustainable.

In the later part of 2022, a reform of replacing the USCC with a single decision maker was considered by the Teaching and Learning Committee and Academic Board and approved by Council on 30 November 2022.

GSU will provide a post implementation review report to Academic Board (through the Teaching and Learning Committee) after twelve months of operation to assess whether the intended improvements have been realised.

Student Misconduct Appeals Committee decisions

As shown in Table 5, 37 students appealed their student misconduct decisions. Of these appeals, 19 students appealed the decision of the RAOs, 15 students appealed the decision of the USCC, and 3 students appealed the decision of the DVC (Education and Students).

Table 5: Outcome of appeals

	No. of Appeals	Dismissed	Varied¹	Upheld	Refer²
RAOs	19	11	5	5	3
USCC	15	11	5	4	
DVC (ES)	3	2	2	1	
Total	37	24	12	10	3

Students can appeal the decision of the decision-maker on five grounds. The SMAC role can determine to uphold, dismiss, vary or refer an appeal back to the decision-maker.

Improvements

Currently, SMA is identifying further process reforms including updating student misconduct definitions to capture the use of generative AI tools and software which could provide further improvements to the student experience within the SMA process and reducing unnecessary administrative burden and delays. These reforms will be the subject of the next phase of the SMA Rules review. Academic Board will be kept abreast of the progress through this next phase.

Consultation

Governance Support Unit
University Secretary.

Links to Strategic Plan/Rules/Academic Standards Framework

UTS 2027 initiative: 3.2 Personal learning experience
Student Rules – Section 16
Academic Standards Framework: academic quality and academic risk.

¹ 'Varied' means the penalty was varied by SMAC.

² 'Refer' means that the matter has been referred back to the original decision maker, as the student has presented new evidence that was not available at the time when the decision maker determined the penalty.

DOCUMENT 5.3

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY

COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 5.3

MEETING 23/2

**PROFESSOR ANTHONY DOOLEY
CHAIR, ACADEMIC BOARD**

19 APRIL 2023

REPORT FROM ACADEMIC BOARD

Purpose

To provide Council with a report on matters considered at the 23/1 Academic Board meeting held on 22 March 2023.

Recommendations

Council to:

- .1 receive and note the as detailed in Document 5.3 - *Report from Academic Board* and its attachment.

Out of Scope



MATTERS FOR DECISION

Out of Scope



Out of Scope

MATTERS FOR NOTING

2022 Report on Student Misconduct and Appeals Matters

Academic Board members noted the Annual 2022 Report on Student Misconduct and Appeals Matters. The Report provided detailed information on the number of student misconduct matters including appeals dealt with during 2022. The Report outlined that there were 1,350 cases, whereas in 2021 there were 1212 cases, an increase of 138 cases in 2022. The number of student misconduct cases of 1,350 represents 3.03 per cent of our 2022 student population of 44,615 and the volume of cases is even smaller if the total volume of assessment is taken into account.

The data included a breakdown of misconduct types and year to year comparisons. The Report indicated that in 2022, there were 263 exams cases, an increase of 115 from 2021. Of the 263 cases in 2022, 224 were online ProctorU cases. It was identified that students were incorrectly selecting a virtual camera rather than the camera on their device.

Information was provided on the cases considered by the University Student Conduct Committee and the Student Misconduct Appeals Committee. It was noted that 37 students appealed their student misconduct decisions during 2022. Of these appeals, 19 students appealed the decision of the RAOs, 15 students appealed the decision of the USCC, and 3 students appealed the decision of the DVC (Education and Students).

The full 2022 Report on Student Misconduct and Appeals Matters will be available in the Supplementary papers section of the **Council Diligent Resource Centre**.

Out of Scope

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COUNCIL

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Recommendations

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Report

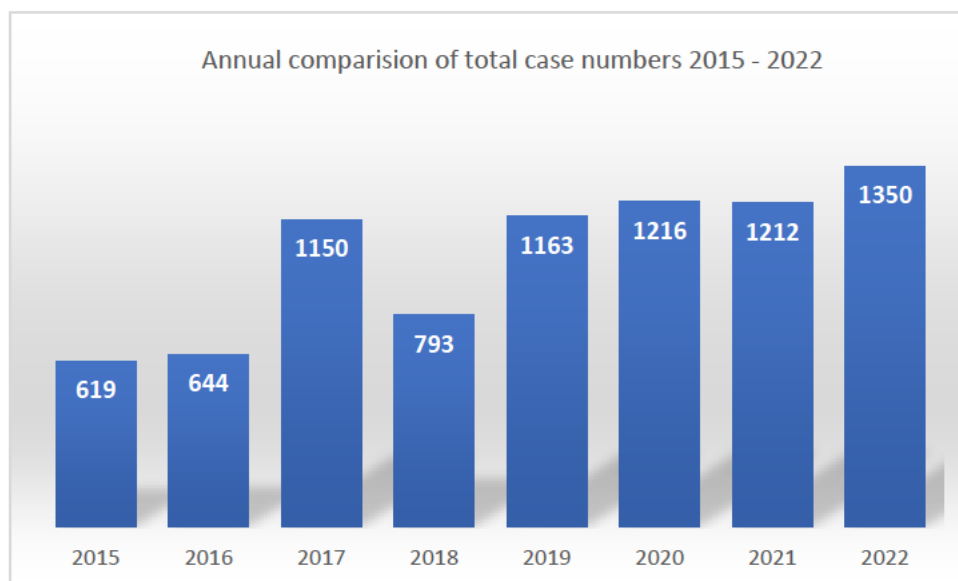
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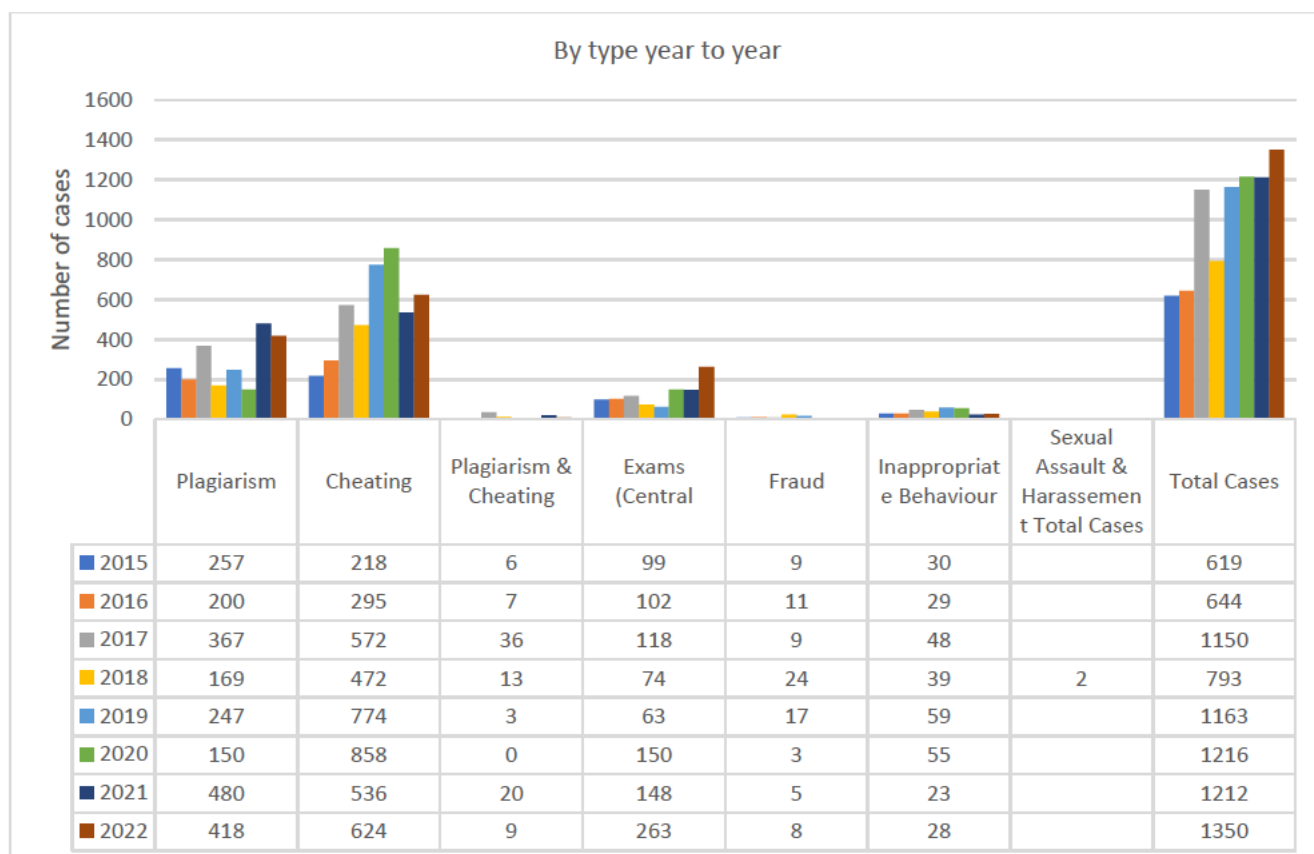


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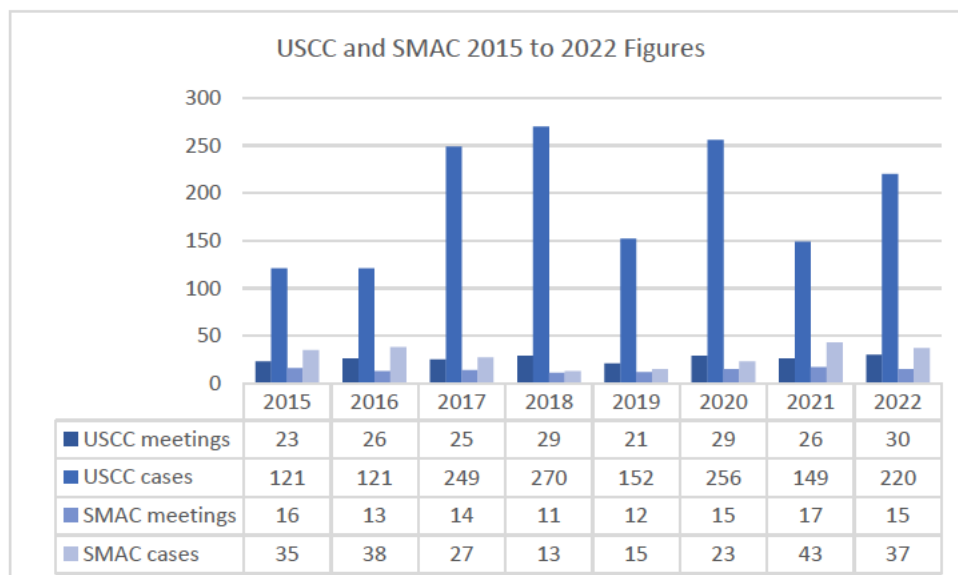


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Academic Standards Framework: academic quality and academic risk.

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