

Improper Use of Agency Cell Phone

Prior to my involvement with the academic integrity office, the posters around campus (which state integrity, honesty, truth, etc.) led me to think that the Academic Integrity Office would deal with students who cheat on exams, plagiarize, or who are verbally or physically aggressive in classrooms. **I was certain that I would never be involved with the Academic Integrity Office** as I believe in honesty, integrity, hard work, and asking for assistance whenever one is faced with a difficult situation. To my great surprise I found myself involved with the Academic Integrity Office during my final semester of my second degree at the University of Windsor.

I had received a cell phone from my field placement agency. I used the phone for both personal use and work use during non-placement days and on weekends and ran a lot of minutes for personal use. The amount of extra charges was significant (over \$1000.00) so the manager at the placement rightfully thought that I should pay the extra charges and that the University should become involved. I was charged under Senate Bylaw 31 for misuse of the cell phone. I went through the judicial affairs process and was able to avoid a permanent sanction on my transcript, but my **errors in judgment** resulted in a suspension and a failing grade for my placement. This experience has taught me a great many things. I have learned that I should never use equipment provided by employers for personal use. I have also learned that clear communication and documentation is very important when one receives instructions. I have also learned that if I have any doubts about something, I should **ask for direction**. I have also learned that the **misuse of resources** belonging to a non-profit organization may take away from people who need them most.

Through this experience I no longer have a biased view of who may be involved with the Academic Integrity Office and have learned that it could be anyone. At times one can find themselves in dilemmas due to misunderstanding instructions and, consequently, be in serious trouble. Thinking about the real world application of principles such as **integrity and honesty** is important to succeeding.

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