

C/296/2024

Complaint regarding discrimination by a Faculty member at University of Technology, Mauritius

On 03rd December 2024, this Office received an anonymous complaint from a group of students from the School of Sustainable Development and Tourism (SSDT) of the University of Technology, Mauritius (UTM) against a Faculty member. It was alleged that the Faculty member adopted a discriminatory approach in grading students and was unfit to hold the position.

Upon enquiry, the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Research reported as follows:

- (i) The UTM has a well-established procedure for appeals where students who feel that their marks do not reflect their performances may wish to proceed with an appeal, which is an independent process.
- (ii) An online anonymous process is also circulated among all students during the semester to allow them to provide their feedback on teaching, learning methods and classroom management skills of their respective lecturers, among others.
- (iii) No appeal related to the case has been received by the SSDT. However, only one student had raised an issue in the anonymous feedback form and the matter was discussed at the level of the School for required action to be taken the following the call.
- (iv) The School had received an anonymous letter a few semesters back regarding one lecturer. The name was however, not disclosed. An email was thereafter sent to all cohorts of the School, inviting any aggrieved students to come forward to express their grievances to the School. The School, however, did not receive any response following the call.

Additionally, the Ministry of Tertiary Education stated that the UTM had been advised to have a meeting with students of the SSDT and request them to bring any issue that they may face to the attention of the Registrar of the University and/or their Elected Student Representative. The Director General of the UTM had also been requested to meet the academic staff of the SSDT to discuss ways to improve academic standards during lectures.