

THE ALBERTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
REPORT OF THE HEARING COMMITTEE
OF THE PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT COMMITTEE

IN THE MATTER OF A CHARGE OF UNPROFESSIONAL
CONDUCT AGAINST MARTIN BEAULNE

The hearing committee of the Professional Conduct Committee of the Alberta Teachers' Association reports that a charge of unprofessional conduct laid against Martin Beaulne of [LOCatiOn Redacted] was duly investigated in accordance with the *Teaching Profession Act*. The hearing was held in Barnett House, 11010 142 Street NW, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada from Wednesday, March 8 to Friday, March 10, 2006.

Professional Conduct Committee members present as the hearing committee were [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] presented the case against the investigated member and was assisted by [REDACTED]. The investigated member was not present and was not represented by counsel.

CONSTITUTION/JURISDICTION

There were no objections to the constitution of the Committee nor to its jurisdiction to hear the case.

CHARGES AND PLEA

The following charge was read by the secretary to the hearing committee:

1. Martin Beaulne is charged with unprofessional conduct pursuant to the *Teaching Profession Act* in that he, while a member of the Alberta Teachers' Association, on or about September 2004 to March 2005, was involved in an inappropriate relationship with a [Grade Redacted] student.

In the absence of the investigated member, a plea of not guilty was directed.

WITNESSES

The prosecuting officer called as witnesses

1. [Name Redacted], vice-principal of [School Redacted] at the time the charge was laid;
2. [Name Redacted], principal of [School Redacted] at the time the charge was laid;
3. [Name Redacted], technology provider for the school jurisdiction and designer of the region's information technology system;
4. [Name Redacted], superintendent of [School Division Redacted] at the time the charge was laid;
5. [Name Redacted], a teacher at [School Redacted] and roommate of [Name Redacted]; and [Name Redacted], identified as the girl friend and roommate of [Name Redacted]. [Name Redacted] testified by telephone from her solicitor's office in [Location Redacted].

EVIDENCE ADDUCED AND EXHIBITS FILED INDICATED THAT:

1. Beaulne was a member of The Alberta Teachers' Association at the time of the offence (Exhibit 3).
2. Beaulne was employed at [School Redacted] as a teacher of high school [Subject redacted] (Exhibit 4).
3. Beaulne was [Age Redacted] of age at the time of his resignation from [School Division Redacted] (Exhibit 3).
4. Student A was a [Age Redacted] student of Beaulne at the time of the offence (Exhibit 4).
5. Beaulne wrote inappropriate e-mail messages of a romantic and affectionate nature, on equipment belonging to the region, to Student A, from September 2004 to February 2005 (Exhibit 7).
6. Beaulne spent time with Student A at [gender redacted] apartment, sometimes privately in [gender redacted] bedroom behind a closed door (testimony of [Name Redacted] and [Name redacted]).
7. On at least two occasions prior to Beaulne's resignation, Student A stayed overnight at the apartment in the company of Beaulne (testimony of [Name Redacted]).

8. Beaulne was observed hugging and kissing Student A in the living room of his apartment (testimony of [Name Redacted]).
9. During the time that Student A was enrolled at [School Redacted], Beaulne and Student A took part together in activities such as attending movies, rollerblading and a ski trip to [Location Redacted], activities that were described by some witnesses as "dating." (Exhibit 8 and testimony of [Name redacted and [Name Redacted]).
10. Student A attended a small party at Beaulne's apartment on February 6, 2005 where alcohol was present (testimony of [Name redacted and [Name Redacted]).
11. When the relationship was disclosed prior to the party on February 6, Beaulne asked his roommates to keep the relationship secret (testimony of [Name redacted]).
12. Many students were aware there was a romantic relationship between Student A and Beaulne, largely because of the public interaction between Student A and Beaulne during the school day (Exhibit 6 and testimony of [Name redacted]).
13. The parents of Student A were aware of the relationship between Student A and Beaulne. The mother of Student A approved of the relationship while the father was cautious about information concerning the relationship being made public (Exhibits 6, 7, 8 and 11 and testimony of [Name redacted] and [Name redacted]).
14. In an interview with Superintendent [Name redacted], Principal [Name redacted], and Vice-principal [Name redacted], the notes of which he signed, Beaulne stated, concerning his relationship with Student A, that "they have feelings for each other," "they have a mutual relationship," and "they love each other" (Exhibits 6 and 8).
15. In an interview with Superintendent [Name redacted], the notes of which [gender redacted] signed, Student A admitted that [gender redacted] had seen Beaulne "30 times" and that [gender redacted] loved him (Exhibit 8).
16. During the interview with Superintendent [name redacted], Beaulne admitted that he had lied to the superintendent in an earlier telephone interview concerning his relationship with Student A and, when confronted with evidence provided by the superintendent, said that he would resign. He then wrote a letter of resignation which was accepted by the superintendent. The superintendent signed a letter drafted by Principal [Name redacted that accepted Beaulne's resignation (Exhibits 8 and 9 and testimony of [Name redacted]).

DECISION OF THE HEARING COMMITTEE

The defendant was found guilty as charged.

REASONS FOR DECISION

Evidence and testimony provided to the hearing committee proved that Beaulne was involved in an inappropriate relationship with a [Grade redacted] student while he was a member of The Alberta Teachers' Association and employed by the [School Division redacted]

PENALTY

The hearing committee of the Professional Conduct Committee imposed the following penalty:

1. A recommendation to the Minister of Education that the interim teaching certificate of Martin Beaulne be cancelled
2. A recommendation to the Minister of Education that Martin Beaulne be declared ineligible to hold an Alberta teaching certificate for a period of five (5) years
3. A declaration that Martin Beaulne is ineligible for membership in The Alberta Teachers' Association for a period of five (5) years
4. A fine of \$5,000, payable to The Alberta Teachers' Association.

REASONS FOR PENALTY

1. Beaulne, while a member of The Alberta Teachers' Association, commenced and maintained an inappropriate relationship with a student in a school in which he was teaching and thereby did not treat the student with dignity and respect.
2. Society has the right to expect that teachers will act in a manner which establishes and maintains the trust relationship between teachers and students.
3. Beaulne acknowledged that his actions were unacceptable by resigning his teaching position but he did not demonstrate any remorse about his behavior.
4. Beaulne attempted to hide his relationship with Student A, lied to the principal and superintendent concerning the relationship, and involved another member of the profession in attempting to hide the relationship.

5. The committee noted that (despite the law to the contrary) the parties believed this was a “consensual” relationship between a young adult male and a [age redacted] [gender redacted] student.
6. While there was no evidence to suggest that Beaulne used his position as a teacher to manipulate or coerce Student A, it is, nevertheless, inappropriate and unacceptable for a teacher to become involved in a romantic relationship with a student.
7. Through his actions, Beaulne brought dishonour and disrepute to the teaching profession.
8. Through his actions, Beaulne undermined public trust in the teaching profession.

Dated at the City of Edmonton in the Province of Alberta, March 10, 2006

HEARING COMMITTEE OF THE
PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT COMMITTEE
OF THE ALBERTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

