To Whom It May Concern:

 I wish to submit an appeal based on new evidence, which I have obtained after our first meeting, and also to make a plea of leniency based on past performance. To start off with, the minutes doesn’t fully show the conversation with Abdo Regai in detail, as most of what I said had been shortened and summarized, the full description of the events is as follows.

I developed a flu/fever on the 2nd October in the evening and had SML on 3/10/14. I came in to class and took part in a group work. I felt dizzy at the time and found it hard to concentrate. I decided to leave during the break as a result of this as I had previously been having fever on and off. I decided it would be best to check myself at a GP at Lime house practice. I was attended to by Doctor Khatun, and was prescribed some medicines. I was still sick all through the weekend and on the 6/10/14 I felt a bit better and decided to go into class because research methods is very important and I needed some notes and topic recommendation for my dissertation.

During the class, I began to feel unwell again and left class to go home and rest. While at the GP, I requested for a sick note from the Doctor and she told me she couldn’t present me with a sick note at the time. She also informed me that according to UK law, you are required to be sick for 7 consecutive days in order to be eligible for a sick note. I have attached evidence of this in the email.

On the 20/10/14, I came in to school but was busy the previous night with a family event at Coventry and didn’t even get to sleep. I came in to school directly from Euston station in the morning and went directly to class. I was extremely tired and found it very hard to concentrate in class. Unfortunately, I left before spot check and I have asked Richard Osborne for confirmation that I was in class and I’m still awaiting Richard’s reply. I have witnesses in class who can testify that I was present for these days and they can also confirm that I was sick on the days I specified, they have all offered to come testify on my behalf if the need be.

Abdo stated in his recent letter to me that the reason for my expulsion was due to the fact that I abused and fraudulently used the attendance system. In an academic institution such as LSBF, one is to expect a certain standard of fairness in relevance to issues such as this; and on my part I feel that I have not been shown sufficient evidence for me to support your decision. I have still been presented with no proof that I fraudulently used and abused the attendance system. My attendance in other classes such as my elective modules speak for themselves. In those classes, there are 6 students including myself and the teachers always take the attendance themselves and you can confirm my attendance from Dr Andry and Ourania, who teach carbon management and Contemporary issues in oil and gas respectively, I have had a good attendance record throughout my time at LSBF, right from the first semester. Missing spot checks does not automatically prove that I have abused the attendance system.

My doctor has now provided me with a statement of medical record and I had to pay for it as it was a very crucial matter and also because I was not sick for 7 consecutive days. Being a mature student, I was under the impression that obtaining a permission to leave class because of ill health was not necessary.

According to UKBA rules, the Tier 4 requirements explain academic monitoring under the heading of “Student contact stops.” The guidance states that “if you are a highly trusted sponsor you can make two checkpoints (re-registrations) during any rolling 12 month period and you must report any students who have missed 10 consecutive expected contacts without you reasonably giving them permission”. Sponsorship should be withdrawn if a student misses 10 consecutive classes. I haven’t missed 10 classes in the whole course let alone 10 consecutive classes. It appears to be quite unfair to expel me from school on the basis of me fraudulently using the attendance system, without having sufficient proof that I have abused the schools attendance system and I have by no means been in breach of my tier 4 students Visa. In conclusion to this based on the regulations set from the home office, which LSBF follows in accordance to, I feel that the verdict of my expulsion has not been assessed properly.

For the past two weeks all our lectures have been doubled. We have had school most days from 10am to 6pm, and I have been ever present for all of these classes. That also shows that I am fully committed to coming to school regardless of the rescheduling due to cancelations. I have paid to receive education from LSBF and I have the right to leave school when I feel unwell when I have had a good record overall throughout my time. My future is at stake at this point in time and this is coming just a few weeks before classes are due to conclude. The attendance system is faulty and flawed, the schools requests that we should swipe in our ID cards when we come in and leave, but there was no machine available to swipe it at the time. If it had been available at the time, it would have helped avoided a lot of issues that are now surfacing. I do not believe the spot checks adequately reflect my proper attendance record. We are all humans and we all make mistakes. Recently I had a graduation for my last degree at University of Hertfordshire, which was on a school day, I emailed PG admin, attendance and Dr Andry before hand notifying them of my absence, this also proves that I respect the schools attendance policy and the spot checks were just a case of misinterpretation.

In my meeting with Abdo Regai, he told me that the decision would be contacted to me in 7 working days. It has taken 4 weeks to get back to me, right when school is due to finish, and all the students are aware that the school is under pressure from UKBA and I feel I am being used as a scapegoat. I urge the school to reconsider this case based on the new evidence I have provided i.e. the note from my doctor and the issues I have raised. I might have made a mistake but due to ill health I just felt that I should just leave as I am an adult and are an entitled to make my own decisions. There is lack of evidence that I have been abusing my attendance, as I was present in all the dates provided and I just left early due to my health. I believe this procedure undermines the dignity of international students and undermines their position of the school as a highly trusted sponsor. I would like to please urge the school to reconsider my case based on the new evidence I have provided and give me another chance.

Umar Farouk Mansoor

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