

FACULTY SENATE

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

FACULTY SENATE BILL 23-A-XX

Approved by the Faculty Senate
XX/XX/XXXX

BRIEF SUMMARY: This bill revises the Procedures section of "Grade Appeal" in Chapter 3.

REVISING GRADE APPEAL PROCEDURES

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Subject to the passage and approval of this bill, the "Grade Appeal Procedures" section in Chapter 3 of the *Faculty Handbook* will be replaced by this bill.

Grade Appeal Procedures

1 The grade appeal procedure is primarily for the review of allegedly arbitrary and capricious
2 grading, and not for review of the instructor's evaluation of the student's academic performance.

3 In order to maintain accurate records, faculty members are recommended to retain certain
4 items for various time periods:

- 5 1. Grade records. These should be retained for at least one year following the completion of an
6 academic year.
- 7 2. Class outlines. These should be retained for at least one year following the completion of an
8 academic year.
- 9 3. Course papers/projects/etc. These should be retained by the instructor for a period of at
10 least one semester following the completion of a course. When graded assignments are
11 returned to students during a course, students should be alerted to retain these materials
12 themselves until the grading and appeal periods have been completed.

13 Students should be encouraged to resolve immediate grading questions when they occur and
14 keep copies of exams, projects, and other graded assignments at least until grade reports are
15 received following the completion of a course.
16

17 **Appeal Steps**

18 **Step 1.**

19 If the final course grade is in question, the student should first discuss the grade fully with the
20 instructor of the course. This informal appeal may occur at any time within the first six weeks of the
21 next regular semester (Fall or Spring) following the receipt of the grade, but it is strongly suggested
22 that this inquiry take place as soon as possible.

23 If an informal appeal does not resolve the problem, the student may file a formal written appeal
24 to the instructor by October 1 (Fall semester) or March 1 (Spring semester). The written appeal

25 should include the basis for the appeal and copies of pertinent documents which support the
26 appeal. The letter should include the full name of the student, the student's ID number, course
27 number, course title, semester and year enrolled, section number, and the name of the instructor.
28 The instructor of the course should respond in writing to this appeal request within two weeks of
29 receiving the request and no later than October 15 (Fall) or March 15 (Spring). If the instructor is
30 no longer available on campus, the department chair may try to contact the instructor or may act in
31 place of the instructor. The unavailability of the instructor may necessitate a slight change in time
32 frame, if so determined by the department chair.

33

34 **Step 2.**

35 If the matter cannot be resolved by interaction with the instructor for any reason, the student
36 may file a written appeal with the department chair within two weeks of receiving the instructor's
37 response, or by November 1 (Fall) or April 1 (Spring). The department chair may request a meeting
38 with the student and the instructor to mediate a possible settlement, and must respond to the
39 appeal within two weeks, or by November 15 (Fall) or April 15 (Spring). It is neither the right nor
40 within the responsibility of the department chair to change the grade, but rather, to find whether
41 any error may have been made and to counsel the faculty member accordingly. If the instructor is
42 no longer available on campus, the department chair may try to contact the instructor or may act in
43 place of the instructor. The unavailability of the instructor may necessitate a slight change in time
44 frame, if so determined by the department chair. In the event that the department chair is the
45 instructor whose grade is being questioned, the college dean will function as noted above. Should
46 the dean or other administrative officer be the instructor whose grade is being questioned, the
47 chair of the department to which the administrator is assigned will handle the appeal process.

48 If the student still believes the grade was issued in error, one step further may be taken.

49

50 **Step 3.**

51 If the matter is still not resolved through mediation with the department chair, a three-member
52 committee shall be appointed by the chair to handle the final appeal. This committee shall be made
53 up of three full-time faculty members, two of whom should be from outside the department in
54 which the appeal was initiated, and may be a regular standing committee or a committee specially
55 convened as circumstances warrant. A written appeal, including supporting documentation, must
56 be made by the student to this committee. This appeal should be received in the departmental office
57 no more than two weeks following the department chair's recommendation. It is requested that the
58 committee then investigate the matter and render a decision within one month. This committee
59 may reject the student's appeal, request the faculty member change the grade to an appropriate
60 level, or, as a last resort, the committee may change the grade. The decision of the faculty appeal
61 committee constitutes the final level of University appeal available to the student.

62 Under no circumstances may a grade appeal be initiated more than one semester after the
63 grade has been issued.

64

Date and Version: 2/3/2023
Handbook Section: "Grade Appeal Procedures" in Chapter 3
Proposed Change: Revising the Procedures section
Source of Bill: Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee

65 *Approved by Faculty Senate 2/16/00, Board of Regents Approval 3/24/00*
66 *Approved by Faculty Senate 1/30/13, President Approval 4/4/13, 15-Day Review 4/11/13*

67
68
69
70
71

Action	Date
Introduced to Senate	2/8/2023
Second Senate Meeting	
Faculty Senate Vote	
President's Review	
Posted to Faculty Handbook	

72