

Revising Grade Appeal Procedures

Proposed amendments from the Academic Affairs Committee (referring to the redline version introduced to Faculty Senate on Feb. 8):

Lines 5-7, merge the current points 1 and 2, and change text to: “1. Grade records and class outlines should be retained for at least one year following the completion of a course.”

Lines 9-10, revise the numbering based on the above, and change text to: “2. Course papers/projects/etc. should be retained by the instructor for at least one year following the completion of a course. When graded assignments are...”

Reasoning:

These time frames are specific to the appeal process, which is designed for the review of allegedly arbitrary and capricious grading. As the initial appeal to the instructor must be made within the first six weeks of the following semester, and as the completion of the third step (final appeal to a committee) must be completed at the latest within the next semester (the second semester following that in which the course was originally taken, maintaining records for one year past the end of the course allows the full appeal process to reach its completion. While individual departments may require records to be kept longer for other reasons, that is beyond the scope of this bill.

Lines 59-62, change to: “...recommendation. The committee shall then investigate the matter, consult with the instructor whenever possible, and render a decision within one month. The committee may reject the student’s appeal or affirm it and change the grade. The decision of the faculty appeal committee constitutes the final level of...”

Reasoning:

This change is keeps in mind that the grade appeal process is designed for the review of allegedly arbitrary and capricious grading, and that by this point an appeal has already been made to the instructor and the chair. If an appeal committee made up of three faculty—two of whom are from outside the department—find that the grade was given in an arbitrary and capricious manner, then the grade should be changed. It should be pointed out that this is the only reason the grade should be changed by the committee. The grade appeal process does not give a chair the right to summarily change a grade nor a committee to change a grade for other reasons.