

GRADE APPEAL PROCESS

- 1) A student who wishes to appeal a grade must file notice of intention to appeal with the Registrar. This must be done within thirty (30) days after the start of the regular semester following the one in which the questioned grade was given. The Student, after informing the Registrar of the intention to appeal, must demonstrate that he/she has met with the following people in an informal attempt to resolve the situation: a) The Instructor; b) The Dean of the Unit offering the course, and; c) The Provost. It is expected that these officers are to be approached in the order listed above. The student will have a maximum of thirty (30) days to complete this process. The Registrar may extend the time limit to avoid undue hardship or injustice.
- 2) When a mutually acceptable decision is not reached informally, the student shall submit a detailed statement of appeal with supporting documentation to the Registrar detailing in what way his/her grade assignment was prejudiced, arbitrary, or otherwise improper. At that time he/she may seek the assistance of his/her academic advisor and/or the Registrar.
- 3) The Registrar will promptly give written notice of the formal appeal to both the student and the involved faculty member. Written notice shall be accompanied by a copy of the student's detailed statement as well as the procedures and sequence of events to be followed in conducting the hearing. The first meeting of the hearing shall be held not less than five (5) days and, whenever practical, not more than ten (10) days after the receipt of such notice. The Instructor shall promptly make available to the Registrar all pertinent grading records and a written response to the students' detailed statements.
- 4) Should the Instructor assigning the contested grade not be available, whether for reasons of termination, resignation, illness, sabbatical leave, leave of absence or death, the Dean or Chair of the Unit sponsoring the course, or a designee of the Chairperson with a more specific curricular expertise, shall serve as surrogate for the Instructor in the grade appeals process.
- 5) The hearing shall be closed unless both parties agree in writing that it be open. The student and the instructor are both entitled to be accompanied at the hearing by advisors of their choice. The hearings are administrative and not judicial in nature. Both parties and their advisors have the right to present evidence and witnesses on their behalf, and to confront and question opposing witnesses. A list of the evidence and witnesses should be submitted to the Registrar prior to the meeting.
- 6) Under normal circumstances, if the duly notified student complainant does not appear for the hearing, the complaint shall be dismissed, the case closed, and the actions are not subject to further hearing. If, however, the duly notified faculty member does not appear, the hearing will continue on the presumption that there is no desire to challenge evidence or witnesses presented by the student.
- 7) At the conclusion of the hearing, the Committee may, by majority vote of its membership, recommend changing the original grade. A written report of the Committee's decision shall be sent to both parties no later than fifteen (15) days after the conclusion of the hearing. The Committee's decision is final and shall not be subject to further hearing or appeal. If the

instructor who originally gave the grade is not willing to initiate any recommended grade change, the Registrar, acting on behalf of the Committee, shall file the change and record the new grade. In case of a procedural violation during the grade appeal process, an appeal may be made by following the procedures listed below:

- 1) Prior to the formal hearing, the Student, Instructor, or member of the Committee may request review of the hearing process on basis of evidence that any substantial procedural irregularity has occurred. The process shall be initiated by filing a personally signed notice of appeal to the Registrar. The notice shall be accompanied by a statement of alleged violation.
- 2) During the formal hearing, the Student, Instructor, or member of the Committee may request that the Registrar review the conduct of the hearing on the basis of any substantial procedural irregularity.
- 3) In the event that a review is requested, the hearing process shall be suspended and a special closed meeting of the members of the Committee shall be convened to review the allegation. If the Committee, by majority vote, finds that any substantial procedural violation has taken place, the Registrar shall disband the grade appeal Committee and the Committee alternates shall review the process. The Alternate panel shall continue the hearing process and its decision shall be final. Students involved in cases of alleged academic dishonesty may be subject to disciplinary penalties under the Honor Code.