

Academic Policies Committee  
Annual Report  
2018-2019

Academic Misconduct Appeals

The Academic Policies Committee met bi-weekly throughout the academic year. In fulfilling its mission to hear appeals regarding academic misconduct, the committee heard 23 student appeals of academic misconduct. Each case can involve up to 100 pages of documentation. Committee members commit a substantial amount of time and energy to preparing for these meetings.

Three of the misconduct cases were related to second offenses. In two of those cases, the students were suspended from the university for six months at the end of the spring term. The Provost overturned one of those suspensions. In the third case, no further sanction was levied against the student by APC. This third case was also referred to the Provost for review because of concerns about due process.

One serious case involving identity theft was referred to APC for sanctions beyond the course level. That student has been expelled from SU.

**Academic Grievances**

APC heard four academic grievances during the academic year. In two of those cases, the student grievance was not upheld. In two other cases, the student grievance was referred back to the faculty members and departments involved to achieve an equitable resolution.

**Policy Matters**

The committee deliberated and discussed issues around several policy items.

First, the committee provided guidance to the Distance Learning Committee regarding the university's revised "Verification of Student Identity in Distance Education Policy."

Second, the committee completed the years-long revision to the Academic Misconduct Policy. The revised policy was approved by faculty senate.

Third, the committee brought forth a proposal to change the transcript language used to indicate student academic standing on transcripts. That proposal was approved by faculty senate.

Finally, the committee proposed a revised final examination schedule and updated the final exam policies. Those proposals have gone to the faculty senate for work by the summer work group and should be moving forward in Fall 2019.

## Upcoming Initiatives and Recommendations for 2019-2020 Academic Year

APC strongly recommends that the Faculty Senate update its committee web site so that 1) APC is linked from the committee list at <https://www.salisbury.edu/administration/campus-governance/faculty-senate/current-committees.aspx> Additionally, the by-laws for the Academic Policies Committee should be provided to the APC chair and posted on the faculty senate web site.

The committee has observed that schools are not following the proper chain of command for resolving academic grievances. The school dean, not the associate dean, is the person to respond to grievances after the student has reached out to the faculty member and the chair. This is the level-three grievance. Because grievances can have very serious consequences for both students and faculty members, the committee does not believe that the process should be delegated. School deans will receive clarification from APC at the start of the school year.

Additionally, the committee is aware that the Academic Misconduct Policy is applied inconsistently across campus and that many faculty are unfamiliar with the policy or its associated procedure. APC will make every effort at the start of the year to educate faculty on the policy, the appropriate procedures, and the need for equitable and proportionate sanctions when academic misconduct occurs.

Finally, the faculty senate has given a charge to APC consider the policy on how long a violation stays on a student record. This is related to the issue of sanctions. APC will be looking at developing both sanction guidelines and a recommendation regarding student records.

Respectfully submitted,

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