

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Jeanne Balsam, Secretary of the Faculty

**DATE:** August 26, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Report of the Student Grievance & Appeals Committee (SGAC) for 2015-16

The members of the Student Grievance & Appeals Committee for 2015-16 were:

Elliot Moore, Chair (ECE)	Jeannette Yen (Biology)
Wendy Kelly (Chemistry)	Laura Margaret Burbach (Undergrad student rep)
Thomas Gable (Graduate student rep)	Erica Briscoe, Executive Board Liaison (CoA)

The members of the Student Grievance & Appeals Committee for 2016-17 are:

Elliot Moore, Chair (ECE)	Federico Bonetto (Math)
Wendy Kelly (Chemistry)	Benjamin J. Nickel (Undergrad student rep)
Joy Kimmel (Graduate student rep)	Erica Briscoe, Executive Board Liaison (CoA)

The Student Grievance & Appeals Committee did not receive any appeal requests during the 2015-16 academic year. There was one case (Sp2016) in the school of Building Construction where a student appealed a grade in BC6550. However, the Chair of BC (Prof. Daniel Castro) successfully intervened to resolve the situation and the student's grade was changed nullifying the need for further appeals.

The other activity of the SGAC during the year was to appoint volunteers to serve as outside members for school-level appeal committees after attempts at resolution between the faculty member and student were unsuccessful. This task was performed four times by the chair, as no input was necessary from other SGAC members. The four cases are described below:

- 1) (Sum2016) A student appealed a grade received in a AE 3521 taught by Prof. Eric Feron. Lakshmi Sankar, Associate Chair of Aerospace Engineering (AE) nominated Jerry Seitzman to serve in his place as the non-voting member who helped organize the school-level committee. Prof. Steve Ruffin (AE) was selected as unit faculty member. The student appointed Prof. Julian Rimoli (AE) as his faculty representative. The SGAC chair appointed Mark Davenport of the School of Electrical and Engineering (ECE) as the outside member. However, before the committee could meet, the student withdrew the grievance.
- 2) (Sum2016) A student appealed a grade received in IMBA6040 taught by Prof. Matt Higgins. The Chair of the Scheller College of Business (COB), Prof. Han Zhang chaired the meeting as a nonvoting member. Prof. Manpreet Hora was selected to represent the unit school (COB). The faculty member appointed Prof. Stuart Graham (COB) as his representative. The student selected Prof. Deborah Turner as his faculty representative. The SGAC chair appointed Prof. Benjamin Klein of the School of the ECE as the outside member. The committee found unanimously in favor of the faculty member and the students grade was not changed.
- 3) (Sp2016) A student appealed a grade received in ECE3072 taught by Prof. Thomas Habetler. The Associate Chair of Undergraduate Affairs in ECE, Prof. Bonnie Ferri, chaired the meeting as a nonvoting member. Prof. Russ Callen (ECE) was selected to represent the unit by the committee chair. Prof. Joe Hughes was selected by the faculty member. Dr. Felcia Benton-Johnson of the Center for Engineering Education and Diversity (CEED) was selected by the student. The SGAC chair appointed Dr. David Scott from the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) as the outside member. The committee found in favor of the faculty member but recommendations were made to modify the syllabus to avoid some of the confusion that was the partly the source of the student grievance.
- 4) (Fa2015) Three distance-learning masters' students appealed a grade received in ME4189 taught by Dr. Ye-Hwa Chen. The Associate Chair of Undergraduate Studies in the School of Mechanical Engineering (ME), Prof. Aldo Ferri chaired the committee. The chair appointed Prof. Laurence Jacobs (ME) to represent the school unit. The faculty selected Prof. Jon Colton (ME). The students selected Dr. Wayne Whiteman. The SGAC chair appointed Prof. Benjamin Klein (ECE) as the outside member. The committee found in unanimously in favor of the students to receive a one letter grade increase.