

Georgia Institute of Technology

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Ron Bohlander, Secretary of the Faculty

DATE: September 9, 2014

SUBJECT: Report of the Student Grievance & Appeals Committee (SGAC) for 2013-14

The members of the Student Grievance & Appeals Committee for 2013-14 were:

Arnie Schneider, Chair (Scheller College of Business)
Douglas Flamming (HTS)
Jeannette Yen (Biology)
Zain Sharif (Undergraduate student rep)
Michael Ellis (Graduate student rep)
Michael Gamble, Executive Board Liaison (CoA)

The members for 2014-15 are:

Arnie Schneider, Chair (Scheller College of Business)
Elliot Moore (ECE)
Jeannette Yen (Biology)
Macie Whatley (Undergraduate student rep)
Matt Kinsey (Graduate student rep)
Michael Gamble, Executive Board Liaison (CoA)

The Student Grievance & Appeals Committee received two appeal requests during the 2013-14 academic year. A student in the Scheller College of Business appealed a grade and a student in the School of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering appealed a grade. In both cases, the SGAC voted to reject the appeals without conducting hearings due to lack of sufficient justification (and in the former case, there was also a violation of the 30-day rule for requesting an appeal).

The other activity of the SGAC during the year was to appoint volunteers to serve as outside members for school-level appeal committees. This task was performed nine times by the chair, as no input was necessary from other SGAC members. The nine cases are described below:

- 1) A student appealed a grade received in a Mechanical Engineering course. Al Ferri, Associate Chair of ME, created the school-level committee. The SGAC chair appointed Lucien Dhooge of the Scheller College of Business as the outside member of the school-

level committee. This committee found in favor of the student, so the student's original grade was changed.

- 2) A student appealed a grade received in a Scheller College of Business course. Han Zhang, Faculty Director of the Executive MBA Program at Scheller, created the college-level committee. The SGAC chair appointed Itzhak Green of the School of Mechanical Engineering as the outside member of the college-level committee. This committee found in favor of the faculty member, so the student's original grade was not changed.
- 3) A student appealed a grade received in a Scheller College of Business course. Han Zhang, Faculty Director of the Executive MBA Program at Scheller, created the college-level committee. The SGAC chair appointed Joel Sokol of the School of Industrial & Systems Engineering as the outside member of the college-level committee. This committee found in favor of the student, so the student's original grade was changed.
- 4) A student appealed a grade received in Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering course. David Sholl, Chair of the School of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering, created the school-level committee. The SGAC chair appointed Brian Swider of the Scheller College of Business as the outside member of the school-level committee. This committee found in favor of the faculty member, so the student's original grade was not changed.
- 5) A student appealed a grade received in a Mechanical Engineering course. Al Ferri, Associate Chair of ME, created the school-level committee. The SGAC chair appointed Marius Niculescu of the Scheller College of Business as the outside member of the school-level committee. This committee found in favor of the student, so the student's original grade was changed.
- 6) A student appealed a grade received in a Chemistry course. Andrew Lyon, Chair of the School of Chemistry & Biochemistry, created the school-level committee. The SGAC chair appointed Jeff Hales of the Scheller College of Business as the outside member of the school-level committee. This committee found in favor of the faculty member, so the student's original grade was not changed.
- 7) A student appealed a grade received in a Mechanical Engineering course. Al Ferri, Associate Chair of ME, created the school-level committee. The SGAC chair appointed Marco Ceccagnoli of the Scheller College of Business as the outside member of the school-level committee. This committee found in favor of the student, so the student's original grade was changed.
- 8) A student appealed a grade received in a Computer Science course. Thomas Conte, Professor of CS and ECE, chaired the college-level committee. The SGAC chair appointed Lizhen Xu of the Scheller College of Business as the outside member of the college-level committee. This committee found in favor of the faculty member, so the student's original grade was not changed.
- 9) A student presented a grievance to the School of Building Construction regarding a dispute about authorship relating to research assistance done for a professor. Daniel Castro, Chair of the School of Building Construction, created the school-level committee. The SGAC chair

appointed Chuck Parsons of the Scheller College of Business as the outside member of the school-level committee. This committee made the following decisions:

- The student's request to be listed as co-author on two unpublished papers, based in part on the professor's dissertation, was denied.
- The student's request to have the professor's name removed from two papers already presented or published was denied.
- The student's request to have the professor's name removed from the student's papers that have not yet been published was approved, provided that the papers are substantially and materially changed to eliminate the concepts from the professor's dissertation.