

September 17, 2010

To: Ronald A. Bohlander  
Secretary of the Faculty  
GTRI – 0817

From: Douglas Flamming  
School of History, Technology, and Society  
Chair, Student Grievance and Appeal Committee

Re: Report of the Student Grievance and Appeal Committee activities during AY 2009-2010

The members of the SGAC during the 2009-2010 academic year were:

Douglas Flamming (HTS, Chair)  
Paul Kvam (ISyE)  
Arnold Schneider (MGT)  
Anthony Baldrige (Graduate student representative)  
Kelly Stiegel (Undergraduate student representative)  
Michael Perdue (Executive Board Liaison)

The primary activity of the committee during this academic year was to solicit volunteers to serve as outside members for school-level appeal committees. This task was performed by the chair of the committee. All cases were resolved at the school level; the SGAC itself received no appeals during the academic year.

CASE LOG. There were three formal school-level hearings this academic year:

Undergraduate Grievances:

Schools Involved: Chem and BioChem (1); Psychology (1)  
In both cases, the original grade was upheld.

Graduate-Student Grievances:

School Involved: Civil and Environmental Engineering (1)  
In this case, the original grade was upheld.

Outside Members who served in school-level hearings included:

Jennifer Leavey (BIO)  
Aldo Ferri (ME)  
Douglas Flamming (HTS)

There are currently four cases in process at the school level, the results of which will be reported in next year's Annual Report.

## COMMITTEE MEETING:

The committee met during the spring semester to discuss a number of matters. The minutes from that meeting follow:

The SGAC met on Monday, April 26, 2010. Room 104, Old CE Building.

Members present: Flamming (Chair), Kvam, Mihir Pathak (substituting for Baldrige), Schneider, and Stiegel.

1. The Chair discussed the grievance process and a potential SGAC Institute-level hearing (the hearing did not materialize).
2. The Committee discussed two documents from the SGAC files: "Student Academic Grievance Procedures" and "Proposed Procedures for Grade Grievance Hearings," with an eye toward clarity and accuracy.
3. The Committee discussed the question of whether the SGAC should continue to exist as a separate standing committee in the Institute or whether it should be merged with another standing committee. Committee members unanimously favored keeping the SGAC as a separate committee, so long as the Chair calls a meeting early in each Fall term to orient the new undergraduate and graduate student representatives (who generally change each year), as well as any new faculty members.
4. The SGAC decision-making process was discussed. The Institute Catalog does not state the level of support needed for Committee approval of a grievance, leaving it to the Committee to determine the rules. Schneider moved that "Decisions by the SGAC at the Institute-level be determined by simple majority rule, and that a tie vote in the SGAC will not overturn the decision previously made at the school/unit level." This motion was seconded by Kvam and approved unanimously by the Committee.
5. The question of Committee-member absences for a hearing was discussed. Motion made to "have a current SGAC committee member appoint a stand-in for any leave of absence, and that this appointment must be approved by the Committee chair or the acting chair. Seconded by Kvam; approved unanimously.
6. The meeting adjourned.

The SGAC is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, October 12.

Before concluding this report, I wish to thank the school chairs, the school-level faculty members, and the outside committee members for their important service to the Institute and for upholding the integrity of the Institute's grievance system.

**I want also to insist that faculty in all Schools respect the Georgia Tech grievance system and recognize the right of all students to file a formal grievance and receive a hearing.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Doug Flamming