



Review of Alleged Arbitrary and Capricious Grading Policy

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DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

Upon review of Policy Number: III-1.20: Policy for Review of Alleged Arbitrary and Capricious Grading by the Educational Affairs committee, we found that there was the potential for confusion in how a student grievance should be handled due to the existence of the more comprehensive Policy Number: V-1.00(A): University of Maryland Policy on the Conduct of Undergraduate Courses and Student Grievance Procedure.

DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE

We propose that both Policy Number: III-1.20: Policy for Review of Alleged Arbitrary and Capricious Grading and Policy Number: V-1.00(A): University of Maryland Policy on the Conduct of Undergraduate Courses and Student Grievance Procedure be reviewed by the appropriate Senate Committees and potentially combined and simplified for clarity.

Policy III-1.20 outlines a specific procedure for a department chair to follow to resolve a grievance brought regarding arbitrary and/or capricious grading, which involves convening a committee of at least three tenured faculty members. This is different than the policy set for in V-1.00(A) that calls for the establishment of screening and hearing boards at the College or School and campus levels. It would be worth reviewing if the procedure should be the same for all academic grievances or remain different for cases of arbitrary and/or capricious grading.

Additionally, our committee identified that the expectations of faculty and academic units in the conduct of academic courses were comprehensively described in the V-1.00(A) but missing from Policy III-1.20. This could be resolved by generating a unified policy for all student academic grievances.

SUGGESTION FOR HOW YOUR PROPOSAL WOULD BE PUT INTO PRACTICE

We feel that a successful outcome for this proposal would be the generation of a single policy that details how different kinds of student grievances should be handled depending on the type and scope of the grievance and who the grievance is against. This would ensure that Colleges and Schools have clarity in how to deal with academic grievances and potentially streamline the policy so that all grievances are handled in a similar manner.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION