

Policy Consultation and Approval Process

Summary of Comments Received during the Informal Review Phase

Grade Appeals Policy

(Policy Title)

A. Individual Comments

No individual comments were received.

B. Group Comments (Note: some comments may also have been submitted as individual comments above)

UCAP Sub-Meet

The Last Day of Attendance Policy envisions use of the same process for student appeals of LDA designation as contained in the Grade Appeals policy. The sub-meet suggests a statement in the Policy statement section of this policy acknowledging that student appeals of LDA follow the same procedure as contained in this policy.

The sub-meet also suggests that students be required to submit step 2 and 3 appeals within two weeks of notification of results from the previous step appeals. The current language is silent on how much time students have to file appeals. Two weeks is recommended to parallel the time given chairs and deans to respond to a student appeal. The sub-meet seems that it is only fair that students are required to work within similar deadlines to faculty and administrators in relation to this policy.

The sub-meet supports adoption with these comments.

MSSA

--MSSA notes in purple

--added text in red

--deleted text in gray

--highlights = comment areas (below)

*accepted all changes of proposed document and added others

Policy

Students have the right to ask an instructor for an explanation of any grade received. Grade appeals are reviewed in instances where students perceive that a final course grade is unfair, arbitrary, or capricious. Appeals must be filled **Students must begin the procedures of this policy** within two weeks* of university notification of a final course grade. Students needing assistance at any step in appealing or **filling** a complaint may contact the Academic Affairs Coordinator of the Student Senate (280 Centennial Student Union; phone 389-2611). **Students should retain copies of all materials associated with**

this process for his/her records. Students should also have records of their coursework from the class in order to help their appeal.

Note: Students are encouraged to talk to their instructors before beginning this process to attempt to resolve the matter informally. Student complaints and concerns about issues OTHER than final grades are to be resolved under the **Student Complaints and Grievances** policy.

Procedures

Grade appeals will be reviewed in the following manner.

Step 1.

- A written petition will be submitted by the student to the instructor of the class. This petition should contain the nature of the problem, relevant information which supports the appeal, and the remedy sought. *The student should retain a copy for his/her records.*
- Within two weeks*, the instructor will respond to the student in writing. If the student is not satisfied with the response provided by the instructor, he/she may proceed to Step 2.
- In cases where the departmental chairperson is the faculty member whose grade is being appealed, the student shall proceed to Step 3.

Step 2.

- A written petition will be submitted by the student to the departmental chairperson with a copy to the instructor. This petition should contain the nature of the problem, a statement that an attempt was made to resolve this issue directly with the instructor, relevant information which supports the appeal, and the remedy sought. *The student should retain a copy for his/her records.* The student, instructor, and chairperson may meet to discuss the complaint, if necessary.
- Within two weeks*, the departmental chairperson will respond to the student in writing with a copy to the instructor of the class. If the student is not satisfied with the response provided by the chairperson, he/she may proceed to Step 3.

Step 3.

- A written petition will be submitted by the student to the dean of the college (**under which the course falls**) with a copy to the departmental chairperson and instructor of the class. This petition should contain the nature of the problem, a statement that an attempt was made to resolve this issue directly with both the instructor and the departmental chairperson, all relevant information which supports the appeal, and the remedy sought. *The student should retain a copy for his/her records.*
- Copies of all materials presented in this matter **in steps 1, 2, and 3** shall be forwarded to the dean, upon request, by the chairperson.

- The dean may review the grade appeal personally, **and/or** may designate one or more college faculty members ~~or students~~ to review the grade appeal.
- Within two weeks*, the dean or designee(s) will make a decision. **and The dean** will respond to the student in writing of the decision reached, with a copy to the instructor and departmental chairperson. If the student is not satisfied with the response provided by the dean/designee, he/she may proceed to Step 4.

Faculty Right to Appeal. The instructor of the class who is not satisfied with action at either Step 2 or 3 may appeal by submitting a written statement to the dean if the complaint involves the departmental level or Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs if the complaint involves the college level.

Step 4.

- For undergraduate student complaints, a written petition will be submitted by the student to the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs with a copy to the instructor of the class, departmental chairperson, and dean.
- For graduate student complaints, a written statement petition will be submitted by the student to the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research with a copy to the instructor of the class, departmental chairperson, and dean.
- For either situation, the petition should contain the nature of the problem, a statement that an attempt was made to resolve this issue according to Steps 1 through 3, all relevant information which supports the appeal, and the remedy sought. ~~The student should retain a copy for his/her records.~~

Use of a University Grade Appeals Panel.

During consideration at Step 4, **for appeals involving undergraduate students**, the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs/designee will convene a University Grade Appeals Panel which shall serve in an advisory capacity. This panel shall consist of **a two faculty members and two students** from a colleges other than the college from which the grade appeal originates. ~~and one two students from a colleges other than the college from which the grade appeal originates.~~ The Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, in collaboration with the Faculty Association, shall name the faculty members. The Minnesota State Student Association shall name the student members.

For appeals involving graduate students, the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research will convene a University Grade Appeals Panel which shall serve in an advisory capacity. This panel shall consist of **a two faculty members and two students(at least one being a graduate student)** from a colleges other than the college from which the grade appeal originates. ~~and one two graduate students (at least one being a graduate student) from a colleges other than the college from which the grade appeal originates.~~ The Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, in collaboration with the Faculty Association, shall name the faculty members. The Minnesota State Student Association shall name the ~~graduate~~ student members.

The University Grade Appeals Panels shall have the right to all relevant information and all relevant instructor records, **student materials from that class**, and may also interview the student and the instructor. The panel shall then make a written recommendation to the Vice President or Dean **of Graduate Studies and Research** within two weeks of completion of the review.

Both the student and faculty member shall be permitted to make a rebuttal to the written record compiled by the **committee panel**. Intent to present a rebuttal should be made in writing within one week of notification* to the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs/Dean of Graduate Studies and Research. The rebuttal should be presented within two weeks* and should provide specific information which addresses the items in objection.

The decision of the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs/Dean of Graduate Studies and Research shall be communicated in writing to the student with copies to the instructor, departmental chairperson, and college dean. This decision is final.

Note: *The time period consists of normal university operating days when classes are held. Under unusual circumstances, deadlines may be extended. If the University representative, at any step, fails to review and/or respond within the time limits provided, the student may proceed to the next step. If the student fails to respond within the time limits provided, the appeal shall be deemed to have been withdrawn.

COMMENTS / QUESTIONS:

- technically there is no place currently to “file” a complaint / appeal
- provide a link to the Student Complaints and Grievances policy.
- Is the MSSA Academic Affairs coordinator able to serve on the University Grade Appeals Panel?
- Currently the University Grade Appeals Committee has 2 students and 2 faculty members, keep.