

Proposed Changes to *Senate Rules 6.2.1.1* (“Functions” of the Academic Ombud) and *6.5.1.2* (“Cases of Grade Appeal”), and Renumbering of Existing *6.5.1.2* (to *6.5.1.3*, “Cases of Student Academic Rights”)

## **6.2.0 THE ACADEMIC OMBUD**

The Academic Ombud is the officer of the university charged with consideration of student grievances in connection with academic affairs. [US: 4/10/00]

### **6.2.1 FUNCTIONS, JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURES OF THE OFFICE**

#### **6.2.1.1 Functions**

The Office of the Academic Ombud shall provide a mechanism for handling issues for which no established procedure exists or for which established procedures have not yielded a satisfactory solution. They are not intended to supplant the normal processes of problem resolution. In some cases where there is a clear need to achieve a solution more quickly than normal procedures provide, the Ombud may seek to expedite the normal processes of resolution.

Students who wish to appeal a finding of an academic offense (see section 6.3), a penalty for an academic offense, a grade in a course, or an action in any other academic matter must confer with the Academic Ombud before they can appeal to the University Appeals Board. The procedure for appealing a finding of or a penalty for an academic offense is outlined in rule 6.4.4; the procedure for appealing a grade or another academic action is outlined below. In cases of academic offenses, the Ombud's office shall notify the appropriate parties (as described in rule 6.4.4) if a student fails to exercise his or her right of appeal within the allotted time. [US 9/12/11]

## **6.5.0 UNIVERSITY APPEALS BOARD**

### **6.5.1 FUNCTIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY APPEALS BOARD**

**6.5.1.1 Cases of Academic Offenses** [see Section 6.4.4, above; US: 3/10/86; US: 12/12/05]

**6.5.1.2 Cases of Grade Appeal** [see section 6.2.1, above; US: 9/12/11]

**6.5.1.3 Cases of Student Academic Rights** [US: 12/8/86]

After hearing a case involving a violation of student academic rights as set forth herein, the Appeals Board may select from the following remedies:

**A.** The Appeals Board may direct that a student be informed about the content, grading standards, and procedures of a course when a violation of the pertinent rules has been proved.

**B.** When an academic evaluation based upon anything other than a good-faith judgment of a student has been proved, the Board may direct that a student's grade in a course be changed to a W (Withdrawal) or a P (Passing, credit toward graduation but not toward grade point standing), or, if such determination can be made, to an appropriate letter grade. (See Section 5.1.3) If the Appeals Board awards a student a P in the course, it shall appear on his or her record regardless of the fact that the student's college or academic unit does not normally recognize P grades. The academic unit must accept that course just as if the student had passed the course in the normal manner, except that the P grade is not used in calculating the student's GPA. [RC: 11/20/87]

**C.** The Appeals Board may take any other reasonable action calculated to guarantee the rights stated herein.

### **6.5.2 COMPOSITION OF THE UNIVERSITY APPEALS BOARD**

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This language has been vetted by the chair of the University Appeals Board, the chair of the Senate's Rules and Elections Committee, and the Academic Ombud.

**Recommendation: that the Senate Council approve the proposed changes to Senate Rules 6.2.1.1 (“Functions” of the Academic Ombud) and 6.5.1.2 (“Cases of Grade Appeal”), and Renumbering of Existing 6.5.1.2 (to 6.5.1.3, “Cases of Student Academic Rights”).**