



Policy Title: Academic Appeals Policy and Procedure

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Responsible Executive: Provost

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Responsible Office: Provost

Academic Appeals Policy and Procedure

Policy Statement

Any student who believes a Baylor faculty member has treated him or her unfairly with respect to a course for which the student was registered may complain of such alleged unfair treatment involving students' academic work. If the matter involves alleged violation of the University Honor Code, it will be handled through the processes identified under the Baylor University Honor Code. Other academic appeals complaints will be heard through the following process:

Conference with Faculty Member

The student shall set forth his or her complaint in a written statement that details the circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The student shall give a copy of the statement to the faculty member and attempt to discuss and resolve the matter with the faculty member.

Appeal to the Department Chair

If the complaint is not resolved to the satisfaction of the student, he or she shall have the right to appeal such matter to the chair of the department (or to the dean of the school if the complaint is against the chair or if the school is not organized into departments). The chair (or dean) must be given a copy of the written complaint.

Appeal to the Dean

If the complaint is not resolved to the satisfaction of the student by the departmental chair, he or she shall have the right to appeal such matter to the dean of the school of his or her designee. In order to consider the appeal, the dean must be given a copy of the written complaint.

Appeal to the Provost

If the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved by the dean of the school, then the student shall have the right to appeal such matter to the Provost (or his or her designee). The Provost (or his or her designee) will make a final decision and there is no further route of academic appeal after this decision. After initial review, the Provost (or his or her designee) may refer such matter to the academic appeals committee for its recommendation prior to reaching the final decision.

Appeal to the Academic Appeals Committee

Function

The function of the academic appeals committee is to hear student complaints of alleged unfair treatment by members of the faculty. The committee shall receive complaints only by referral from the Provost (or his or her designee) and shall not otherwise receive or hear complaints.

Composition and Appointment of the Committee

The academic appeals committee is appointed by the President of the University and consists of eleven members – nine faculty members and two students.

Hearing Before an Academic Appeals Committee Hearing Panel

At this point in the process, the chair of the academic appeals committee shall select a hearing panel consisting of five members – three faculty members and two students – from members of the larger committee to hear the complaint. The hearing panel shall arrange a conference between the parties involved and attempt to arbitrate the matter. At least three members of the panel (two faculty members and one student) shall participate in any meeting with the parties involved. The meeting shall be informal and private and conducted for the purpose of resolving the matter to the agreement of both parties.

Appeals Committee Recommendation

If such a resolution agreeable to both parties is not reached, then the hearing panel shall make a recommendation concerning the disposition of the appeal to the Provost.

Allegations of Discrimination or Retaliation Based on Protected Characteristics

Allegations of discrimination or retaliation based upon protected characteristics or protected activity involving grades, student evaluations, suspensions or other academic

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discipline, or otherwise involving alleged acts of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation in academic matters by faculty or academic administrators, are covered under the [Baylor Civil Rights Policy and Procedures](#). Before any such claim may be raised under the Civil Rights Policy, it must be fully resolved through this Academic Appeals Policy and Procedure. If the student still wishes to pursue a Complaint of Discrimination after the Academic Appeal process is complete, he or she may request resolution under the Civil Rights Policy.