

UCF Graduate Council

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APPEALS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of October 10, 2006 meeting

Members Present	Alan LaCerra, Cecyle Carson, David Cooper, Ramarao Desiraju, Jana Jasinski, Aravinda Kar, Keith Koons, Peter Spyers-Duran, Juli Dixon, Max Poole
Recorder	Robert Stephens
Guests Present	Jamal Nayfeh
Staff Members	Bridget Mendibles-MacVittie

The meeting began at 2:30 pm in MH room 327 with introductions of all members and staff present. Dr. Jamal Nayfeh (CECS) spoke on behalf of a student that had a previous petition denied. Seven petitions were received and reviewed at the meeting. One petition was tabled, as more information was needed. The following recommendations were submitted to Dr. Bishop for final approval.

The following petitions were decided:

7 year Rule (GSP7YR)

Two (CECS) approved, One (COE) approved, One (CBA) approved

Reverting to old catalog year (GSPCAT)

One (COHPA) approved

Other (GSPOTH)

One (CECS) denied, One (CECS) tabled

Dr. Poole gave an overview of the Student Appeals section to the Golden Rule and asked the committee for recommendations on adjusting and simplifying the language of the Golden Rule. The committee then reviewed each section of the Golden Rule appropriate to graduate students and made recommendations for change.

The following questions and comments were raised about the Golden Rule:

1. It should be clarified as to which parties have access to pertinent documents, and the process by which parties acquire access to these documents prior to hearings at the department, college, or Vice-Provost level.
2. Where does the student go if there is a grievance with the graduate program coordinator?
3. Should the composition of the college grade appeals committees be better defined as to the membership and included in the Golden Rule? There currently is much variation in the composition from college to college.
4. Reexamine if ten days is long enough for resolution of the grievance at the levels of the college dean and/or the Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies?
5. What can the student do with the proceedings if nothing is done after 10 days?

Dr. Poole gave an overview of the definition of "dismissal" as suggested by the General Counsel's Office, and asked the committee to review the document. The following recommendations were made:

1. Use the word "expulsion" rather than "dismissal" in the policy. The term dismissal is commonly used for less severe actions such as dismissal from a program.
2. The definition should be explicit, and put into context. For example, "expulsion necessitates an immediate and permanent severance of all academic ties between the expelled student and the university. Expelled students will not be readmitted to the university in the future, will not be allowed to graduate, etc., etc." Perhaps give examples of actions that could require "expulsion" such as "commission of certain felonies while enrolled as a student at UCF could necessitate 'expulsion' as determined by the Office of Student Conduct."
3. The policy as written should not mix references to "students" and "employees."

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm. The next scheduled meeting will take place October 26 at 1:00 pm.

