

Appeals Policy For Academic Decisions

(EXCERPT)

Other Than Assignment of Grades

SEE THE REVISED DEADLINES for Appeals of Academic Decisions, including Grade Appeals (Meeting #157 - March 2, 2009).

I. Introduction

The University of Alaska is committed to the ideal of academic freedom and so recognizes that academic are a faculty responsibility. Therefore, the University administration shall not unduly influence or affect the review of academic decisions that are a faculty responsibility.

The following procedures are designed to provide a means for students to seek review of academic decisions alleged to be arbitrary and capricious. These academic decisions may involve non-admission to or dismissal from any UAF program that were made by a department or program through the department chair, or involve pass/fail decisions by a committee of faculty on non-course examinations (such as qualifying, comprehensive or thesis examinations) or satisfactory/unsatisfactory evaluations on student reviews (such as the annual review of graduate student performance). Before taking formal action, a student must attempt to resolve the issue informally. A student who files a written request for review under the following procedures shall be expected to abide by the final disposition of the review, as provided below, and may not seek further review of the matter under any other procedure within the university.

II. Definitions

A. As used in the schedule for review of academic decisions, a class day is any day of scheduled instruction, excluding Saturday

1. This formal review is initiated by the student through a signed, written request to the Provost.

a. The student's request for formal review may be submitted using university forms specifically designed for this purpose and available from the Office of the Provost.

b. By submitting a request for a review, the student acknowledges that no additional mechanisms exist within the university for the formal review of the decision, and that the university's administration including the college dean/director can not influence or affect the outcome of the formal review.

c. The request for a formal review must be received no later than 10 days after the student has learned the outcome of the informal review (IIIA4).

d. The request must detail the basis for the allegation that the decision was made on a basis other than sound professional judgment based upon standard academic policies, procedures and practices.

2. The Provost will appoint a 5 member review committee composed of the following:

a. One non-voting tenure-track faculty member from the academic unit in which the decision was made. This individual shall serve in an advisory role. This faculty member shall not be the individual(s) against whom the appeal is directed.

b. Two tenure-track faculty members from within the college or school but outside of the unit in which the decision was made. If available, one of these two members will be selected from the members of the UAF Faculty Appeals and Oversight Committee.

c. One tenure-track faculty member from outside the college or school in which the decision was made. If available, this member is to be selected from the members of the UAF Faculty Appeals and Oversight Committee.