



Item: AS: A-6b

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF REGULATION 4.002, STUDENT
ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES FOR GRADE REVIEWS**

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approval of proposed Regulation 4.002.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The proposed Florida Atlantic University Regulation 4.0002 sets forth the policy regarding student academic grievance procedures and is dependent on the repeal of the current FAU Regulation 4.002 and the approval of the proposed amended Regulation 4.001, *Code of Academic Integrity*. The FAU Regulation 4.001 that is currently in effect contains two unrelated items: procedures for handling cases of academic dishonesty and procedures for the resolution of student academic grievances, in particular disputes over course grades. To provide clarity both to students and to faculty, these procedures have been separated into two distinct regulations which are now put forth for approval in the form of proposed amended Regulation 4.001 and proposed Regulation 4.002.

The proposed Regulation 4.002 contains no substantive change in the current policy on student grievances involving grade reviews. Such policy has simply been removed from the current Regulation 4.001 and inserted into the proposed Regulation 4.002. New academic grievance procedures involving grade reviews are currently under consideration by faculty. When approved, the Division of Academic Affairs will present such revised procedures to the Board of Trustees for consideration. Until that time, we ask that the current policy regarding student academic grievances remain in force, as reflected in the proposed Regulation 4.002.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

The proposed regulation will be implemented and effective upon adoption by the Board of Trustees.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no fiscal implications to this proposed board action.

Supporting Documentation: **Proposed Regulation 4.002, Student Academic
Grievance Procedures for Grade Reviews**

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PROPOSED NEW REGULATION

Florida Atlantic University

Regulation 4.002

Student Academic Grievance Procedures for Grade Reviews

Student grievances arising from academic activities require a written request for conference with the Instructor. If unsatisfied, the student may request further discussion in a department conference within ten (10) days. The conference, held as soon as possible, will be among the student, the Instructor, and the Head of the Department administering the course. An advisor may attend to provide counsel to the student, but not to answer in place of the student. The Department Head's written statement of action taken pursuant to the conference will be delivered to the student and the Dean of the College administering the course. Grades will not be changed except by the Instructor, and grievances involving the judgment and discretion of a faculty member in assigning grades shall not proceed under this rule beyond the conference with the Instructor. This is an application of the concept of academic freedom. The exception to this rule occurs if the student can demonstrate malice on the part of a faculty member.

A grievance involving a charge of malice may be appealed to a student-faculty council. This council will be established by each College and will be composed of the Dean, two faculty members, and two students. Requests for a hearing must be presented in writing within ten (10) days of the departmental conference. Records of appeals and minutes will be maintained by the Dean. These hearings are considered to be educational activities. The strict rules of evidence do not apply. Students may be assisted by attorneys, but may not abdicate the responsibility to respond to charges to their legal advisors.

The student may appeal the faculty-student council's action to the University Provost by requesting a hearing within ten (10) days of the committee's decision. These appeals are limited to the following bases:

- (a) Failure to receive due process.
- (b) Arbitrary actions including lack of commensurateness of penalty to offense.
- (c) New pertinent information not available during earlier proceedings.

In the event of a finding of malicious action, the University may take disciplinary action against the faculty member and, at the option of the student, remove the grade from the record and refund the student's fees for the courses. Students, whose accusations of malice are found to be frivolous by the Vice President of Student Affairs, are subject to disciplinary action.

Specific Authority: Article IX of the Florida Constitution, Florida Board of Governors Resolution dated January 7, 2003, Florida Board of Governors Regulation Development Procedure dated July 21, 2005, Board of Governors Regulations 1.001 and 6.010, 1001.74 FS. History–New - -10.