

Final Report of the Bloomington Student Grievance Hearing Committee

Submitted April 25, 2004

Elizabeth Boling, Chair, Diana Lambdin, Ex-Officio

Members: Sheri Anderson, Jerome Harste, Bradley Levinson, Gerardo Lopez, Michael Tracy and student members Susan Johnson & Megan Henderson

Activities for the year

- 1) The Bloomington Student Grievance Hearing Committee (Grievance Committee) investigated our own jurisdiction, speaking at length with Jerry Olson from the Office of Student Ethics and Anti-Harassment Programs. We determined that the School of Education Student Grievance Hearing Committee actually entertains three distinct types of requests for hearings:
 - a. Grievances ... these are first-time complaints of misconduct or violation of student rights brought by a student against a faculty member or administrator
 - b. Appeals ... these are complaints brought by a student appealing some action taken by an instructor resulting from alleged academic misconduct (we do not handle personal misconduct cases; these are handled by the Dean of Faculties representatives in the Office of Student Ethics)
 - c. Appeals of outcome ... these are appeals brought by students who feel they have new evidence to submit subsequent to a prior grievance hearing. A student without new evidence who is simply unhappy with the result of a hearing must submit an appeal to the Dean of Students.

Once we recognized these distinct types of requests for hearings, we adjusted the language throughout our policies and procedures statements to discuss Grievances and Appeals, rather than appeals only. We have used the word "case" as an umbrella term referring to either a grievance or an appeal, or to both.

- 1) The committee discussed our procedures and some previous hearings in which members had participated. We concluded that:
 - a. A member of the School of Education Student Grievance Hearing Committee should consult to a student requesting a hearing on procedural issues only
 - b. Students wishing more support in a hearing should be directed to the Student Advocates Office
 - c. Advocates accompanying a student to a hearing should be allowed to speak during the hearing (the previous procedure prohibited this)
- 1) We adjusted the language in the policy and Request for Hearing documents, and submitted these to the SoE Policy Council for approval. The documents were approved on January 28 and subsequently forwarded to the SoE webmaster to be posted.
- 2) One appeal has come to the attention of the Grievance Committee this year. It was received by Diana Lambdin in mid-April. She is still investigating alternative solutions to the issue before forwarding the appeal to this committee for a hearing.

