

This is the original form from the President's committee. It did not go out to most of the Senate in this form.

FACULTY GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Committee  
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I. Purpose

To allow an individual faculty member a procedure for presenting a grievance and having it considered on its merits by an expeditious and orderly process. The procedure established herein is advisory in nature and is not an adjudicatory process. A grievant is assured freedom from reprisals for the filing of a grievance.

II. Definition of Grievance

An allegation or complaint that there has been a violation, misinterpretation, or improper application of existing policies, rules, regulations, practices, and/or procedures which a faculty member believes to be unfair, inequitable, or a hinderance to effective performance.

III. Appeal through Administrative Channels

Complaints or grievances should be clarified at the earliest possible time and at the administrative level closest to the locus of the complaint. Every effort should be made to resolve such matters informally, by conversation with the department head, dean, or Vice President for Academic Affairs, before bringing them into a written form.

Equitable resolution of most complaints can be achieved through the usual administrative channels. Any faculty member may initiate an appeal in writing with the officer responsible for his or her administrative unit within thirty days after experiencing an alleged grievance. If resolution of the problem is not achieved, the faculty member may request review at successively higher administrative levels through the dean, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the President.

IV. Appeal through Advisory Committee on Faculty Grievance

A. Establishment of Committee

The President shall establish within the University an advisory Committee on Faculty Grievance. The Committee shall be drawn from the same pool of faculty members chosen for the Advisory Committee on Faculty Continuance as stated in the Faculty Handbook.

B. Selection

The Committee shall be a standing committee consisting of five (5) tenured faculty members. Membership on the Committee shall be selected annually from the list by lot. A faculty member shall not participate in a case involving a faculty member from the same department, and a member chosen shall remove himself/herself either

at the request of the party or on his/her own initiative if he/she deems himself/herself disqualified because of bias or interest. Each party shall have a maximum of two (2) challenges without stated cause. Supplementary selections and lists shall proceed in the same manner until an accepted committee is constituted.

The Committee shall designate one (1) member as Chairperson.

### C. Procedures

When a faculty member has been unable to achieve an amicable resolution with the department head (director), dean, and Vice President for Academic Affairs, he or she may request a review by the Committee through the President. The request for a review should be submitted in writing, together with a statement of the complaint. Upon receipt of the complaint, the President shall have the Advisory Committee on Faculty Grievance convened through the procedures described above. The Committee will not review in this way matters for which other formal procedures have been specifically outlined in the Faculty Handbook: (1) allegations of discrimination due to race, sex, religion, national origin, age, handicap, or veteran status; (2) dismissal from employment before a stipulated time of service has been completed or without the minimal advance notice specified for termination of probationary faculty; (3) allegations that the nonrenewal of a probationary faculty member constitutes a violation of academic freedom; and (4) termination of tenured faculty.

The Committee after a preliminary investigation, and upon a vote of a majority of its members, may rule that a particular grievance does not merit review by the Committee. When it has been determined that a complaint lies within the scope of the Committee, the Chairperson shall initiate a Committee review by notifying all appropriate parties of the review procedure to be followed. The Committee shall be empowered to request any and all parties to submit evidence related to the nature of the grievance. At the conclusion of the review, the Committee will forward to the President and to the faculty member the Committee's written findings and recommendations.

The written decision of the President shall be forwarded to the Chairperson of the Committee and the faculty member. If the President does not accept all or part of the findings and recommendations of the Committee, he or she will include in the decision the reasons for not doing so.

The decision of the President is final.

### V. Annual Report

At the end of each academic year, the President shall provide a written report to the Board of Regents regarding the number and type of cases presented in the preceding year. The report shall include the Committee's recommendation for each case and its final disposition.