2015-2016 Report Student Academic Relations Committee (SARC)

I assumed the role of Chair in July, 2015. A complaint was already in process at the time. I carefully reviewed the complaint, interviewed the student, the Dean and the faculty member involved. Following careful evaluation of all documentation, I finalized the process in October 14th, 2015. My recommendation was that the complaint not move forward to the full committee. The student was notified and had five days to respond to my recommendation. The student appealed my decision and asked the full committee to consider the complaint. The committee reviewed the documentation and found no violations of University Policy. The student was notified of this decision on November 10th, 2015.

A second complaint was received by the Office of Faculty Development and Advancement on April 11th, 2016. Because the student submitted the formal complaint so late in the spring semester, I was tasked with expediting this process. After evaluating the extensive amount of information provided by the student, and talking with the faculty member, I recommended that this case not move forward to the full committee because there was no evidence of arbitrary, or capricious behavior on the part of the faculty member. The student was notified of this decision on April 29th.

The final complaint submitted for my consideration was from a student in my academic unit, Criminology and Criminal Justice. In order to be transparent and avoid any conflict of interest, I recused myself from this entire process. Another member of SARC, Dr. Lee Stepina served as Interim Chair of the Committee. On April 21st, the student was notified that no evidence of wrong doing by the College of Criminology was substantiated, therefore he did not recommend moving this complaint forward to the full committee. The student appealed the decision. The full committee voted and decided that this case should not move forward. On April 28, 2016 the student was notified of this decision.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Warren-Hightower SARC Chair