

April 11, 2018

Faculty Senate
Florida State University
222 S. Copeland Street
115 Wescott Building
Tallahassee, FL 32301
RE: Student Academic Relations Committee (SARC) Report, (2017-2018 academic year)

Dear Faculty Senate:

During the 2017-2018 school year, The Student Academic Relations Committee (SARC) received one complaint. The office of Faculty Development and Advancement forwarded a grade appeal complaint to me on October 18, 2017. As Chair of the committee, part of my review process included speaking with the faculty member involved as well as the student who launched the complaint. The purpose of my conversation with the faculty member was to discuss in more detail the concerns put forth by the student. The student raised several concerns that were necessary for me to clarify with the faculty member and the Chair of the Department. After carefully reviewing university policy on grade appeals as well as the grade appeal process utilized by the faculty member's department/college, on December 8, 2017 the student was notified that I could not find any evidence to substantiate the claim raised in the complaint. FSU policy specifically states that, "grades will be upheld unless the evidence shows that the grade was awarded in an arbitrary, capricious, or discriminatory manner, as a result of a gross violation of the instructor's own evaluation (grading) statement." Because I could not find any evidence that the grade appeal process was handled in an arbitrary, capricious or discriminatory manner, or that the department behaved in a bias way toward the student, the SARC committee would not hear the student's case.

Irrespective of my decision, all students have a right to appeal and ask the full SARC committee to review his/her complaint. In order to do so, they must submit their appeal within five working days to Dr. Jennifer Buchanan, Associate Vice President of Faculty Development (jbuchanan@admin.fsu.edu), and Ms. Andrea White (awhite2@fsu.edu), who will forward it to the members of the full committee. If the student fails to submit their appeal within five working days, my decision represents the final action of the university. In this case, the student was notified in writing of my decision and the right to appeal. The student did not submit an appeal within 5 working days, therefore the case was closed. There were no other complaints submitted during 2017-2018 academic year.

If there are additional questions about the SARC process, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Patricia Y. Warren

Associate Professor
College of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Student Academic Relations Committee, Chair