

Annual report from the Grievance Committee of the School of Education, Indiana University – Bloomington for the 2015-2016 academic year. Reported by Rebecca Martinez, chair of the Committee.

Members of the Grievance Committee during the 2015-2016 academic year:

Rebecca Martinez (Chair)
Frank DiSilvestro
Phil Carspecken
Hannah Schertz
Stephanie Power-Carter
Ellen Vaughan
Jodi Adkins (staff)
Elizabeth Boling (Ex-Officio)
Panos (graduate student)
M. Mikel (undergraduate student)

Activities:

During the 2015-2016 academic year, the Grievance Committee heard one grievance appeal (submitted November 29, 2015). A non-degree seeking graduate student filed the appeal. We made every effort to hear the case before the end of the fall semester, but scheduling proved impossible. We heard the case on February 15, 2016. The student brought a representative from IU's Student's Advocates Office. The committee discussed the case, weighed all of the available documentation, and submitted a report with recommendations to the Dean's office. The Dean's office made a final decision and informed the student. A second student submitted another grievance, but it concerned academic dismissal, so it was sent directly to Dean Crow without a hearing.

The committee met with Dean Boling on March 24 to discuss general procedures for filing and hearing grievances. The members in attendance weighed in on two key questions: (1) should academic dismissal grievances go directly to the Dean's office or should the committee hear them? and (2) should the committee update the current grievance procedures?

The committee decided that it indeed should hear academic dismissal grievances because students have a right to be heard and because the committee does not make final decisions about grievance cases, the Dean's office does. We agreed to update the procedures (last updated in 2007). As of 4.26.16 we have a draft of the revised procedures and intend to finalize a draft to present to Dean Boling before the end of the semester. Next year's committee chair will bring the revised procedures to Policy Council for approval next fall.

No other Committee activities took place.