

Faculty Senate Resolution #12-46

Approved by the Faculty Senate: March 27, 2012

Approved by the Chancellor: May 2, 2012

Revisions to the *ECU Faculty Manual*, Part V. Academic Information, Subsection I.J. Grade Appeal Policy

Students are not able to appeal grades on the basis of violation of university policies. For example, if a student received a poor grade based on an opinion or an idea with which the professor disagreed, the student would have no grounds for appeal, even though there is a violation of academic freedom, which is protected for students under ECU and UNC-system policies. This change to the grade appeal policy is very important for our compliance to SACS principles. (Please note that this policy in no way protects students who do not follow assignments or who are not able to present arguments in support of their ideas. If there were academic reasons why the student received the poor grade, the appeal would not be successful.)

Additions are noted in **bold** print and deletions in ~~striketthrough~~.

Revise and keep in the Faculty Manual.

J. Grade Appeal Policy

The goal of this grade appeal policy is to establish a clear, fair process by which undergraduate students can contest a course grade that they believe has been awarded in a manner inconsistent with university policies or that has resulted from calculation errors on the part of the instructor. Recognizing, however, that the evaluation of student performance is based upon the professional judgment of instructors, and notwithstanding the exceptions noted at the end of this policy, appeals will not be considered unless based upon one or more of the following factors:

- An error was made in grade computation.
- Standards different from those established in written department, ~~school or college~~ **school, college, or university** policies, if specific policies exist, were used in assigning the grade.
- The instructor departed substantially from his or her previously articulated, written standards, without notifying students, in determining the grade.

Only the final course grade may be appealed. The grade assigned by the instructor is assumed to be correct and the student appealing the grade must justify the need for a change of the grade assigned.