



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO

VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ric Brown, Vice President
Academic Affairs

Robert Buckley, Chair
Faculty Senate

FROM: Shirley Uplinger, Vice President
Student Affairs

DATE: September 8, 2003

SUBJECT: GRADE APPEAL FINDINGS

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shirley Uplinger".

In compliance with the "Grade Appeal Procedures" policy in the University Manual, I am forwarding a summary of grade appeal actions taken during the 2002/2003 academic year. The dates, departments, and actions are noted. The names of the individuals involved have been omitted to ensure compliance with the Family Privacy Act.

If you desire more information, please let me know.

SMU:jlj

attachment

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GRADE APPEAL FINDINGS

Spring 2002

- English Student filed appeal requesting grade change from “69.4 to passing” in her English 116A class. She feels she was treated with prejudicial circumstances. She said the professor told her that she should drop the class because she would not be able to pass the WPE test. She was late turning in two papers, dropping her grade considerably, but thinks she deserves a passing grade. The grade appeal committee unanimously agreed that the grade assigned to her for English 116A: Studies in Applied Linguistics in Spring, 2002 was not assigned “arbitrarily, capriciously and/or because of prejudice,” and so it will remain the grade of record.
- Civil Engineering Student filed appeal requesting grade be changed from an F to a B in CM 120 class. He scored high on midterm, video and final exam. He missed the lab due to illness (chicken pox). The panel reviewed the appeal, and recommended the grade be changed to a B.
- Civil Engineering Student filed appeal requesting grade be changed from an F to a C in CM 126 Spring 2002. The committee met on morning of November 11 and reviewed the course syllabus and work items submitted by the student. Immediately subsequent to the meeting, Professor’s grade book was obtained and reviewed. It was the unanimous recommendation of the committee that the appeal be granted and that the letter grade be changed from a value of F to a value of C.

Fall 2002

- Civil Engineering Student filed appeal requesting grade be changed from a D+ to a higher grade in CM 22 for Fall 2002. The committee met and considered the grade appeal form. The panel noted the difficult personal situation the student faced regarding too much stress and not enough study time, but could find no grounds consistent with the CSUS Student Grade Appeal Process that would justify a change in the student’s grade. The appeals process required that “a student shall allege and prove by a preponderance of evidence one or more of the following compelling reasons for changing the grade assigned”
- A. That the instructor assigned the grade arbitrarily.
 - B. That the instructor assigned the grade capriciously.
 - C. That the instructor assigned the grade because of prejudice.

In his letter to the appeal panel, the student does not allege any of these reasons, nor does he offer any evidence indicating that any of these things occurred. His letter stated that he was under a difficult and stressful personal situation and this affected his performance in the course. There was no evidence of any improper conduct on the part of the instructor. Since the three reasons listed are the only basis on which a grade can be appealed, the panel was forced to deny the appeal