

## 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this academic policy statement is to provide for the resolution of student academic grievances in a prompt and equitable manner.

## 2. GENERAL

2.01 Under the provisions of this policy, academic grievances include disputes over:

- a. Course grades
- b. Unauthorized class absences or tardiness
- c. Suspension for academic deficiency
- d. An instructor's alleged unprofessional conduct related to academic matters
- e. Graduate comprehensive and oral examinations
- f. Theses and dissertations

2.02 If the dispute is determined to be based upon professional judgment, the aggrieved student is entitled to have, as appropriate and in turn, the department/school chair, College Academic Review Panel, academic dean, Dean of Graduate Studies (for graduate student issues), and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs form an opinion about the dispute and so advise the individual(s) involved. After considering the advice provided by any or all of the administrators participating in hearing the grievance, the individual(s) involved in the dispute shall retain the academic freedom to decline to change the original judgment in the matter.

2.03 Allegations of student misconduct, as defined in paragraph 5.2, Chapter VI of the *Rules and Regulations*, Board of Regents, The Texas State University System, and Sam Houston State University *Student Guidelines*, published by the Dean of Students' Office will be referred to the Dean of Students' Office for necessary action.

2.04 Allegations, questions, or appeals involving academic dishonesty, i.e., cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and/or abuse of resource materials, will be processed in accordance with the procedures set forth in Academic Policy Statement 810213, "Procedures in Cases of Academic Dishonesty."

2.05 If, in turn, the department/school chair, College Academic Review Panel, academic dean, Dean of Graduate Studies (for graduate student issues), or Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs finds that a disputed action conflicts with federal or state law, university, college, or departmental policy, or

with an instructor's stated class policy, a decision should be rendered in favor of the aggrieved student.

### 3. COLLEGE ACADEMIC REVIEW PANEL

- 3.01 There shall be in each college a Standing College Academic Review Panel. The members of the panel shall be chosen by procedures established by the college dean. The panel will consist of three faculty members and two student members. The chair of the panel will be selected from the panel members by the appointees to the panel. A department/school chair or any party to the appeal being heard may not serve on the panel. At least two faculty members and at least one student member must be present for action to be taken.
- 3.02 The Academic Review Panel will be involved in an alleged grievance only after the normal procedures outlined in paragraph 4.01.a and 4.01.b below have been exhausted.
- 3.03 The Academic Review Panel will hear only appeals involving disputes over those matters set forth in paragraph 2.01.a through 2.01.f of this policy. Appeals regarding university/college degree requirements, student misconduct, or academic dishonesty will not be addressed by the panel.

### 4. PROCEDURES

- 4.01 The following steps are to be followed in pursuing an academic grievance or an appeal of suspension for academic deficiency (a grade point average below 2.00):
  - a. In the event of an academic grievance, the student must first appeal to his/her instructor or committee chair for a resolution of the matter and must do so in writing and within thirty days following the final course exam for the semester or summer session during which the dispute arises. (If the grievance involves a suspension for academic deficiency, the student appeals directly to the appropriate academic dean.)
  - b. If an academic grievance is not satisfactorily resolved with the instructor or committee chair, the student may appeal to the chair of the academic department/school in which the complaint or dispute is centered. The student appealing must provide a written summary of the pertinent issues of the grievance. In addition, a student may include other faculty or staff



**CERTIFICATION STATEMENT**

This academic policy statement (APS) has been approved by the reviewer(s) listed below and represents Sam Houston State University's Division of Academic Affairs' APS from the date of this document until superseded.

Original Date: August 23, 1990  
Reviewer(s): Academic Policy Council

Review Cycle: October, ENY\*  
Review Date: October 1, 2008

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_/signed/\_\_\_\_\_  
David E. Payne  
Provost and Vice President  
for Academic Affairs

Date: \_\_\_\_\_04/25/06\_\_\_\_\_

\*ENY = Even Numbered Year