

Memorandum to: S&T Faculty Senate

From: Mark Schlesinger, 2017–18 Academic Freedom and Standards (AF&S) Committee Chair

Date: July 17, 2018

RE: 2017–18 Annual Activity Report

The committee received a referral from the Faculty Senate in February asking for a response to three concerns:

- A student request to reconsider the policy denying the use of replacement grades to calculate GPA for the purpose of conferring academic honors was considered. It was the Committee's unanimous opinion that this is inadvisable, and would lead to numerous attempts to 'game the system'. As a result, the committee's recommendation was to deny this request.
- The request by the Office of Institutional Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion to revise the incomplete grade policy so that a Title IX coordinator could recommend a final grade of "incomplete" as a remedy for Title IX violations was considered. The committee feels that Section XIII.I.I.5 of the student academic regulations can be used to deal with this problem, and chose to deny this request. However, it was suggested that this section might be changed to add sexual harassment to the list of conditions under which a student could appeal directly to a department chair for a grade change.
- The question of appointing a subcommittee to examine campus-wide assessment of Student Learning Objectives was considered. After some discussion, the membership decided not to create a subcommittee, since the consequences of not having a campuswide assessment policy seem less significant than the amount of time and commitment required to develop one.

The committee received referrals from Faculty Senate in May asking for consideration of a change to plus/minus grading at the University, and changes to limit acceptance of grades for courses taken at institutions outside the University of Missouri System. In response to the first issue, a motion was passed by the committee and submitted to the Faculty Senate (June meeting) committing the University to change to a plus/minus grading system. This motion was discussed and ultimately referred to the Student Affairs Committee for further consideration. The second issue was considered; ultimately no motion was submitted to Faculty Senate. The matter has been referred to the Registrar's Office so that more information can be obtained about the problem.