

Motion presented to Faculty Senate 3/29/11
Proposed revision of the General Education appeals policy

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee unanimously recommends acceptance of the following revision to the General Education appeals policy.

Proposed revision of the appeals policy

Current text of the appeals policy

Binghamton University students must successfully complete all General Education requirements as a condition of graduation. Generally speaking, General Education requirements are not waived for any students. However, we are aware that some students with special circumstances feel their situation warrants a waiver of one of the General Education requirements. Appeals of General Education requirements are considered by the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UUCC), the committee which oversees Binghamton's General Education program. The UUCC's decision regarding an appeal is final.

Proposed revision

Strike the sentence "The UUCC's decision regarding an appeal is final." and add the following text:
Appeals of petitions denied by the UUCC are made to the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education. If the decision of the UUCC is appealed to the Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education, the UUCC will provide the Vice Provost with all documents related to the student's petition, including the original petition and the committee's decision. The decision of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education is final.

How the information would be made available to students

The text of the appeals policy as listed on the website would stay the same, except the last sentence would be deleted. The text as listed in "Proposed revision" would be provided to students only after they had inquired whether there was a second level of appeal; it would not be publicized.

Explanation

The UUCC would like to have approval of the following change in procedure related to appeals by students regarding General Education requirements:

Please find below the current policy, the proposed new policy and a note on what information will be made available to students, which has been prepared by Liz Abate on behalf of UUCC: the sentence " The UUCC's decision regarding an appeal is final" is replaced by a description of a second level appeal.

As background, I would like to say that the UUCC meets almost every week of the semester for 90 minutes and has a very busy schedule, giving very thorough consideration to student appeals and new proposals for Gen-Ed designations on courses. It has been a policy not to allow students to come in to plea their case in person, which is frustrating for some of them.

It is in recognition of the fact that in other areas of the university, appeals and grievances are permitted to go up to the Dean's level with a recommendation from the relevant reviewing committee, that we find it appropriate to allow students to take their appeals to a university administrator, who has a thorough understanding of university policies related to Gen-Ed--in this case the Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education.

Thank you for your attention
Les Lander, Chair of UUCC