

Resolution 010
A Resolution to Allow Students to Challenge All Grades
Sponsored by: Senator Sharpe
Co-Sponsored by: Senator Schlee, Senator Kazanci, Senator Crnkovich,
Senator Moore

Whereas,

The University has procedures in place for students to appeal failing grades for all courses within all academic schools.¹

Whereas,

Under this policy, students may only appeal failing grades for a course and not any other grade earned.

Whereas,

This appeals process only allows students to submit their appeals in writing and not over email.

Whereas,

Circumstances where a student may feel compelled to appeal their final grade for a course include but are not limited to: a professor miscalculates a student's grade, there is evidence of discrimination, prejudice, bias, or caprice on the part of the professor, or the professor fails to abide by the syllabus or widely publicized revisions to the syllabus.

Whereas,

There have been incidents reported of prejudice or bias on the part of the professor that had a material impact on students' final course grade, but there were no procedures to appeal because it was not a failing grade.

¹ [Procedures for Appeal of Failing Grades - Policies - The Catholic University of America | CUA](#)

Whereas,

Many Universities similar to Catholic University, including but not limited to American University², Ave Maria University³, Benedictine College⁴, Boston College⁵, Fordham University⁶, Franciscan University⁷, Loyola University of Maryland⁸, Villanova University⁹, and the University of Dallas¹⁰ have a process in place for students to appeal any grade received.

Be it enacted that,

The Student Government Association Senate, acting in its official capacity as the representative of the undergraduate student body of The Catholic University of America, hereby requests that

1. The University grants students the opportunity to appeal all grades, not just failing grades, for all courses following the same, already-established procedures in each academic school.
2. That the appeals process be amended to allow students to appeal grades via email, and not only in writing.
3. That all students serving on the failing grades committee for each academic school are not privy to any of the personally identifiable information of a student undergoing the appeals process or any student witnesses called, unless that information is somehow relevant to the appeal itself.
4. That the opportunity to challenge grades with an explanation of the process be included in the syllabi for every course at the University.

Agreed to by a vote of _____ yeas to _____ nays on this date: _____ with _____ abstaining and _____ not present.

Abigail Anger
President of the Student Government Association

Monica Wallace
Vice President of the Student Government Association

² “Student Academic Grades Grievances Policy,” (American University)
<https://www.american.edu/policies/students/upload/student-academic-grade-grievances-policy-web.pdf>

³ “Ave Maria University Catalogue,” (Ave Maria University)
<https://www.avemaria.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Academic-Catalogue-2020-2021-FINAL.pdf>

⁴ “Benedictine College Course Catalog,” (Benedictine College)
<https://www.benedictine.edu/Assets/uploads/files/academics/benedictine-college-course-catalog.pdf>

⁵ “Academic Policies,” (Boston College)
<https://www.bc.edu/bc-web/schools/mcas/undergraduate/advising/academic-policies.html>

⁶ “Procedure for Appealing a Course Grade “ (Fordham University)
https://www.fordham.edu/info/24145/undergraduate_faculty_handbook/6607/procedure_for_appealing_a_course_grade

⁷ “Grade Challenge” (Franciscan University of Steubenville) <https://franciscan.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2020-2021/Undergraduate-Catalog/Academic-Policies/Grades/Grade-Challenge>

⁸ Course and Grades FAQs, “What is the Process for a grade appeal?,” (Loyola University Maryland)
<https://www.loyola.edu/departments/undergraduate-deans/grades-faqs>

⁹ [Grade Appeals & Complaints Against Faculty | Villanova University](#)

¹⁰ Grading Policies, “Grade Changes,” (University of Dallas)
https://udallas.edu/about/university-policies/student_policies/grading-policies.php