

Great Basin College Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee

Written Committee Report

Meeting: Thursday, 25 June 2015

Meeting convened at 1:30 pm in Elko GTA 128 and Pahrump PVC 122

Participating: Scott A. Gavorsky (Chair); Danny Gonzales; Dale Griffith; Jan King;

Scott Nielsen; Diane Wrightman [quorum]

Absent [excused]: Mike Elbert; Dale Hogan

The meeting was held to address a request of a Step Three Grade Appeal initiated by the student in response to a Step Two grade appeal decision. Since the origin of the grade appeal was a course taught in Spring 2015, the procedure followed was that in effect during Spring 2015, in the *GBC General Catalog 2014-2015*, pages 54-55

Due to FERPA regulations, the student cannot be identified in this public report.

Due to GBC personnel regulations, the identity of GBC personnel has also been withheld from this public report.

The following documents were consulted by the Committee during the review:

- The request for the Grade Appeal from the student, dated 9 June 2015.
- The decision of the Step Two Grade Appeal by the Chair of the Arts and Letters Department (June 2015).
- The Final Paper submitted by the student, dated 22 April 2015.
- A “Check Page” Assignment, verified by the student as a preliminary assignment for the Final Paper, dated 22 April 2015.
- Comments on the “Page Check” assignment by the instructor, dated 27 April 2015.
- Rubric used for the Final Paper, showing a grade of 0 for plagiarism.

The instructor was not available to the Committee to interview, despite previous e-mail contact indicating availability. A message was left on the instructor’s office phone by the Committee.

The Committee (in quorum) did interview the student and advocates from White Pine County High School asked by the student to participate via phone conference during the meeting.

The Chair of the Committee verified with the Vice-President of Student Services that no formal report of plagiarism had been filed with the Student Services Office in this matter.

Based on the review of this evidence, the Committee recommends the following:

- While the Committee agrees that the student may have failed to properly cite some information even after the instructor indicated a problem, the Committee is of the opinion the failure was a technical issue rather than a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, sections (a)(1) or (a)(3) (see the *GBC General Catalog 2014-2015*, page 28).
- The grade of zero (0) initially assigned for the paper be withdrawn.

- The Committee recommends that the final paper be re-graded by another ENG 102 instructor, using the original instructor's assignment directions and rubrics. The chosen instructor should not have been involved with this case previously and acceptable to both the Chair of the Arts and Letters Department and the student.
- The re-graded assignment score should be substituted for the original assignment grade of zero ("0"), and the student's Final Course grade be changed to reflect the substituted Final Paper grade.
- If either the instructor or the student wishes to appeal this recommendation or the re-assigned grade, a Step Four Grade Appeal would be initiated following the procedures outlined in the *GBC General Catalog 2014-2015*, page 55.
- The Chair of the Committee will inform the student and the instructor of this decision within fifteen (15) days of this meeting, as required by the policy.

The Committee will schedule further meetings as required.

Scott A. Gavorsky, Ph.D.
Chair, Academic Standards Committee

ADDENDUM 1 – 29 June 2015

Copies of the final letter of the Committee's decision was sent to the student and the instructor in this case via e-mail. Included were recommendations for an alternative grader, who was agreeable to both the student and the Chair of the Arts and Letters Department.

ADDENDUM 2 – 13 July 2015

The re-graded assignment was returned to the student on 7 July 2015. The student responded on 8 July 2015 via e-mail to the Chair of the Academic Standards Committee that the re-graded assignment was acceptable and no further appeals would be lodged. The instructor communicated via e-mail on 12 July 2015 that no further appeals would be lodged, and that the student's final grade would be changed in PeopleSoft to reflect the re-graded paper.

ADDENDUM 3 – 30 July 2015

The student contacted the Chair of Academic Standards on 28 July 2015 to inquire why the final course grade had not been changed in PeopleSoft. The instructor was contacted and the grade was changed on 30 July 2015. The student was informed of the grade change by the Chair of Academic Standards via e-mail.