F13-1, SJSU Policy, Students’ Rights to Timely Feedback on Class Assignments

Legislative History: Rescinds F68-18
At its meeting of November 18, 2013, the Academic Senate approved the following policy recommendation presented by Senator Frazier for the Instruction and Student Affairs Committee. F68-18 explained students’ rights to know their test and paper scores within a reasonable time. However, with the increasing use of technology, instructors now give a much wider range of assignment types, including presentations, online discussion, and group projects then they did when F68-18 was written. This new policy gives students the right to be provided with feedback on all types of assignments within a reasonable time.

Action by University President: Approved and signed by President Mohammad Qayoumi on December 9, 2013.

University Policy

Students’ Rights to Timely Feedback on Class Assignments

Resolved: 1. All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.

2. That F68-18 be hereby rescinded.

Rationale: F68-18 had a single Resolved clause: “Every student has the right to know, within reasonable time, his academic test scores, to review his papers and examinations, and to be provided with an explanation of the determination of his course grade.”

With changing pedagogical perspectives and increasing use of technology, instructors give a much wider range of assignment types – presentations, online discussion, group projects, etc. – and students should be granted the same expectation for feedback on all assignments within a reasonable period as with papers, tests, and examinations.
This policy is ideally meant as a temporary stopgap measure to clarify students’ rights to feedback until a general revision of grading policies (which would retain this policy’s mandate) is completed. That revision would result in an omnibus policy encompassing a range of grading issues, possibly including S73-16, S73-28, S83-15, F88-6, S90-5, S97-8, F99-6, F06-4, S09-7, F10-3, and S11-5; the revision could in addition encompass greensheet policies, possibly including F06-2.

Approved: October 28, 2013
Vote: 13-0-0
Present: Ayala, Branz (non-voting), Brooks, Campsey, Culatta, Frazier, Goyal, Gupta, Hernandez, Hebert, Jeffrey, Jabagchourian, Kelley, Walters
Absent: Bruck (non-voting), Fujimoto, Kress, Sofish, Wilson
Financial Impact: None.
Workload Impact: Possible decrease in workload for Student Fairness Committee due to more straightforward guidelines for how to adjudicate student complaints.