

2008/2009 Year-End Committee Report to the Academic Senate

Student Fairness Committee

Chair: Marty Froomin

Chair Elect: Marty Froomin

Number of meetings held: 13

SFC Business Completed 2008/2009

The Student Fairness Committee (SFC) met 13 times during the 2008/2009 academic year (AY); 6 meetings in the fall semester and 7 meetings in the spring semester. The agendas and minutes summarizing the case dispositions are included with this report.

The number of students seeking assistance from the University Ombudsman during AY 2008/2009 was 370. The SFC investigated 10 cases, a significant compared to the three previous years. This increase may be due, in part, to an article in the Spartan Daily on December 10, 2008, which detailed the grievance/grade dispute process.

Year	Ombudsman Cases	SFC Cases
2008/2009	370	10
2007/2008	293	6
2006/2007	346	3
2005/2006	389	2
2004/2005	366	8

Grievances Heard 2008/2009

0809-001	Complaint against Department/CEE Found in Favor of Student; Rejected by Department. Referred to BAFPR for decision.
0809-002	Grade Dispute/English & Comparative Lit. Found in favor of student. Instructor accepted SFC recommendations.
0809-003	Complaint against Staff/Academic Serv. Assigned to a subcommittee but resolved informally before hearing.
0809-004	Complaint against Department/Communication Studies Found in favor of student. Department accepted SFC recommendations.
0809-005	Grade Dispute/MLIS Found in favor of instructor.
0809-006	Complaint against Faculty/Health Science

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0809-007	Found in favor of instructor. Grade Dispute/Aviation Found in favor of instructor.
0809-008	Complaint against Department/MLIS Found in favor of Department.
0809-009	Grade Dispute/Counselor Education Found in favor of student; Finding rejected by instructor. Referred to BAFPR for F09.
0809-011	Complaint against Department/Communicative Disorders Findings not in favor of either party. Recommended changes to department practice and policy.

At the final meeting of the spring semester, the SFC elected Martin Froomin, College of Science, as the 2009/2010 Committee Chair.

Unfinished Business Items for 2009/2010

There are 3 issues pending with the Ombudsman which may be assigned for investigation in Fall 09.

New Business for 2009/2010

The SFC is seeking faculty representation from the Colleges of Education, Humanities, and Social Science, and has one staff vacancy.

Four students who served on the SFC in 2008/2009 have reapplied to serve on the committee in 2009/2010 leaving 3 student vacancies.