

Graduate Academic & Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes for March 9, 2016

Attending: Don Hampton, Anne Beaudreau (by zoom), Sean McGee (by zoom), Mitch Reed, Daryl Hampton, Donie Bret Hart, Mike Daku, Amanda Loibl, Jayne Harvie

- I. Minutes from our meeting of 2/24/16 were passed
- II. GAAC discussed the draft modification of the academic appeals policy and grade appeals policy forwarded to us by Sandra Wildfeuer of SADA. It is likely that the academic appeals policy will mostly apply to graduate students. Amanda and Holly will find out how many graduate students are affected by grade appeals in courses. GAAC had the following comments on the two motions: 1) After comparing with the BOR and UA Regulation documents, the main issue that we see is that there is no provision for the presence of an advocate for the student in either draft motion (grade appeals or academic appeals). This might put these draft motions (and our existing appeals policies) out of compliance with BOR policy, which states that "A party may choose an advisor to be present at all times during the proceedings." However, both draft motions state that "The meeting will be closed to outside participation, and neither the student nor the instructor or Department chair may be accompanied by an advocate or representative." Other matters of format will be announced in advance. This was mentioned this as one of the primary drivers for updating the appeals policy, but it doesn't seem to have made it into the draft motions. Yes. GAAC member who had experience with an issue involving general counsel commented that it is really important that policies be followed as they are laid out; where the university can get into trouble with the law is when there is a policy specified, but it is not followed. 2) Many appeals regarding graduate students are brought through the graduate school. GAAC requests that a representative of the graduate school be a voting member on any appeals involving graduate students (either grade appeals or grade academic decision appeals), so that the graduate school is aware of what is going on.