

Academic Senate Resolution Regarding Student Grade Change

Whereas Title 5 §55025 states in part, “In any course of instruction in a community college district for which grades are awarded, the instructor of the course shall determine the grade to be awarded each student in accordance with this article;” and Kern Community College Board Policy Section 4C4C states that the “instructor shall determine the grade to be awarded each student... [which] shall be final in the absence of mistake, fraud, bad faith, or incompetence;” and

Whereas a failing grade assigned by an instructor that was contested by a student was changed to a B on or around April 1, 2011 without the instructor’s approval and no compelling case for “mistake, fraud, bad faith, or incompetence was made to justify this grade change; and

Whereas the records concerning this failing grade indicate a total of 314 points completed by the student out of 455 possible points; which equates to the student earning 69% of the possible points; which is a D per the course syllabus; this includes a grade of 0 for exam 3 on which the student was found to have cheated; and

Whereas the remaining 2.5 weeks of that semester constituted an additional 240 points possible, including the final exam, that the student did not attempt, totaling 695 total course points possible, reducing the student’s total earned points for that course to 314 out of 695 (= 45%); therefore, the student’s true grade, based on the course syllabus, is an F; and

Whereas Title 5 §55002 states that “The course provides for measurement of student performance in terms of the stated course objectives and culminates in a formal, permanently recorded grade based upon **uniform standards** in accordance with section 55023. The **grade is based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter** and the ability to demonstrate that proficiency...” Assigning a grade of a D is generous, considering the student failed to complete the last 2.5 weeks of the semester and the associated work during that time. As noted above, the student’s grade should truly be based on the entire semester’s work. The student should still be required to complete the missed work; and

Whereas other students in the course took the final exam and earned A, B, C, D and F grades based upon completing all the course requirements; therefore, the assigning of a grade of “B” to this student violates the aforementioned Title 5 section based on uniform standards; and

Be it resolved that the Academic Senate of Bakersfield College demands that the inappropriately and administratively assigned grade of “B” be changed to the instructor recommended grade of “D,” which reflects the grade earned by the student up to the date the student stopped attending class for this course; and

Be it further resolved that the Academic Senate of Bakersfield College takes this action not simply in support of an individual faculty member, but in defense of Title 5 and KCCCD Board Policy sections as outlined above which stipulate that the grade assigned by a faculty member “shall be final in the absence of [instructor] mistake, fraud, bad faith or incompetence.”