SALISBURY UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MOTION

Submit this form to the Faculty Senate President

SUBJECT: Policy and Procedures for Appeals of Decisions of Accredited Program to the Academic Policies Committee

SENATOR PROPOSING MOTION: Angela Freeman

SENATOR SECONDING MOTION:

MOTION (this section alone will be recorded in the minutes):

The Faculty Senate charges the Academic Policies Committee (APC) to work with Program Directors and/or Chairs of accredited programs to develop policy and procedures for student appeals of program decisions and sanctions. If programs which are not accredited would like to use such procedures in relation their own programmatic decisions, they may contribute to this work as well. APC will bring its recommendations for such policy and procedures to the Faculty Senate for review by October 2027.

JUSTIFICATION:

First, there is a section in the existing Student Academic Misconduct Policy (IV.F, Dismissal from Accredited Programs) that refers to a Policy on Student Appeals of Faculty and Professional Program Sanctions. No such policy can be found through a search of the SU website; it is therefore presumed to be functionally extinct. Students should have some way to appeal such decisions, so a policy is desirable. However, in cases where students are dismissed for academic misconduct after the APC has already rendered a decision on the misconduct, the APC should not be the appeals body, since their earlier decision might be seen as biasing their judgment. For such cases, an alternative route of appeal needs to be developed.

Second, the Student Behavior Policy for the Perdue School of Business (PDF dated February 2022) includes an Appeal Process section, which says that students may appeal decisions of the Perdue Exceptions Committee to the APC. The list of Perdue School Committees on the SU website does not include an Exceptions Committee; a search of the website does not find this committee except where mentioned in the Student Behavior Policy. APC has long heard appeals from the Perdue Exception Committee for a small number of cases and is willing to continue doing this work. But recently appeals are reaching APC without adequate documentation for the committee to render a decision. This entails additional investigation by the APC; some cases do not include any evidence for an Exceptions Committee decision. Establishing an up-to-date policy and clearer set of procedures for such appeals will allow such processes to run more smoothly for all concerned.

ANTICIPATED IMPACT:
Negative:

None, although finding the time and attention for the work may challenge some.

Positive:

Having clear, transparent policy and processes for handling dissatisfied or aggrieved students demonstrates our commitment to due process and fairness. Retaining defunct or vague ones makes already difficult situations more complicated and stressful for faculty and staff as well as students.

Is this a recommendation to the Provost? Yes____ No__X__
Is this a recommendation to someone else? No____ Yes, to _____

VOTE: Number of Senators Present: Motion Passes or Fails: