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**Werklund School of Education Academic Assessment and Graded Term
Work Procedure
GRADE, CREDIT OR FAIL DESIGNATION, AND PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOUR APPEALS**

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1 Principles and Definitions

- 1.1 The Werklund School of Education (WSE) Faculty Appeals Committee (FAC) serves as the committee to hear Academic Assessment and Graded Term Work appeals.
- 1.2 The WSE FAC appeal process for Academic Assessment and graded term work appeals is:
 - a) confidential,
 - b) provides procedural fairness,
 - c) strives for consistency in terms of its decisions,
 - d) is administratively efficient, and
 - e) contributes to a fair and just University.
- 1.3 A Student wanting to appeal an Academic Assessment decision made by the WSE or a graded term work decision made by the WSE must use these procedures.
- 1.4 In this procedure
 - a) The term “Academic Assessment” means the determination of a student’s final level of achievement in a specific WSE course, and includes grades, credit or fail designations, and, if specified in a WSE course outline, assessments of all aspects of professional behaviour.
 - b) The term “Academic Progression Matter” means a matter regarding a Student’s academic achievement in the Student’s program. Academic Progression Matters include: assessments of all aspects of Professional Behaviour as required in University documents other than a course outline; dismissals; or the requirement to withdraw. Academic progression matters do not include: decisions regarding Academic Assessments or Student Academic Misconduct.



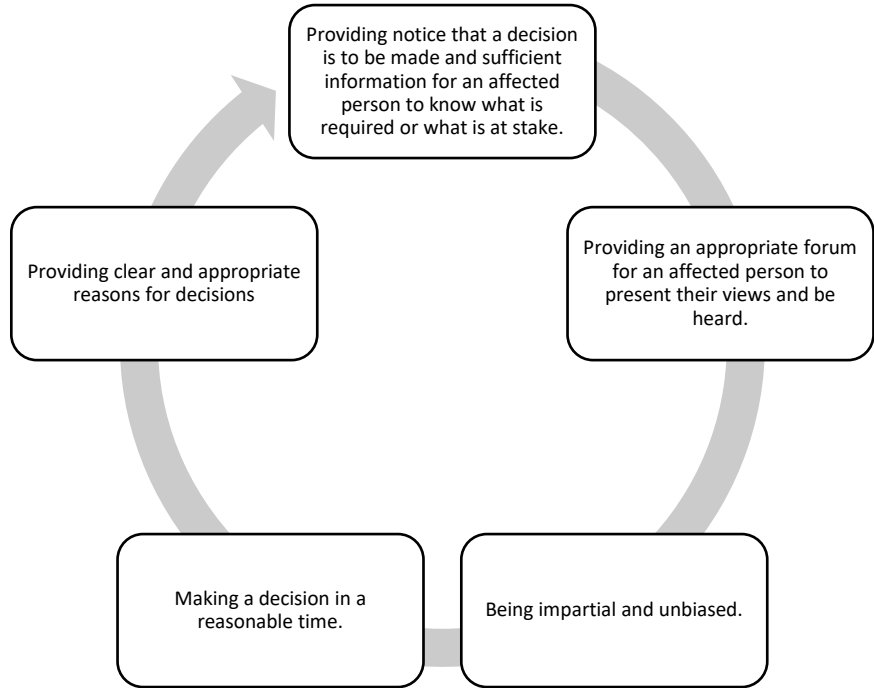
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- c) The term “Appellant” means a Student who appeals an Academic Assessment or Graded Term Work decision about themselves.
- d) The term “Business Days” means days that the University is open for business, excluding weekends and holiday closures.
- e) The term “Dean” refers to the Dean of the WSE or their delegate.
- f) The term “Graded Term Work” refers to graded term work as described in Section I.2 *Reappraisal of Graded Term Work* of the [academic regulations](#) of the University Calendar.
- g) The term “Professional Behaviour” generally means conforming to the technical, interpersonal and ethical standards expected of an education professional and includes behaving with integrity, honesty and strong ethics. In the case of the WSE, professionalism is further defined by reference to key professional standards documentation, including but not limited to: University and WSE policies, procedures and Codes of Conduct; University and WSE calendar regulations; WSE Course Outlines; and the WSE Field Experience Field Handbook.
- h) The term “Reasonable Apprehension of Bias” generally means that a reasonable and informed person, viewing the matter realistically and practically, would think that it is more likely than not that a decision maker was biased in respect of the decision under appeal.
- i) The term “Respondent” means a person who responds to the appeal. This may or may not be the person who made the decision under appeal.
- j) The term “Student” means an individual who is registered in a course in the WSE, at the time the decision under appeal occurred.
- k) The term “Student Academic Misconduct” means plagiarism, cheating or other academic misconduct as defined in the [academic regulations](#) of the University Calendar or in any University policy that defines student academic misconduct;
- l) The term “Student Non-academic Misconduct” means conduct that is prohibited as outlined in [Appendix 1: Prohibited Conduct](#) of the [Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#)
- m) The term “University” means the University of Calgary.



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**2 Procedural Fairness:
Necessary for
Decisions**



**3 Appellant
Responsibilities and
Grounds of Appeal**

- 3.1 A student may appeal an Academic Assessment or Graded Term Work decision on only the following grounds:
- a) that a irregularity occurred in making the Academic Assessment decision or Graded Term Work decision (including a deviation from a course outline or communicated performance expectation, or where a grade was not updated), or
 - b) that an Academic Assessment or Graded Term Work decision was determined on some basis other than performance, which may include allegations of a reasonable apprehension of bias.
- 3.2 The following are not recognized as grounds for appeal by the WSE FAC, and will result in an appeal being rejected:
- a) ignorance of University or WSE policies, regulations, procedures, or the contents of a course outline;
 - b) mere dissatisfaction or disagreement with the Academic Assessment, Graded Term Work decision, a reappraisal, the course outline, or performance expectations;
 - c) achievement in other course work or programs;
 - d) extenuating circumstances; or
 - e) the numerical calculation being close to the next highest letter grade.



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- 3.3 Appellants may ask for only one of the following outcomes in their appeal:
- that Graded Term Work be discounted from the final grade achieved;
 - that the Academic Assessment decision or Graded Term Work decision be returned to the Program Office or decision maker, as appropriate, for another reappraisal, as directed by the WSE FAC; or
 - that the Academic Assessment decision or Graded Term Work decision be returned to the Program Office or decision maker, as appropriate, for other resolution which resolution must be in accordance with applicable University and WSE policies, regulations and procedures.
- 3.4 An Appellant is responsible to satisfy the Dean or the WSE FAC that the appellant's evidence or position is more likely than not to have occurred or to be accurate. This is referred to as the balance of probabilities standard of proof.
- 4 Submitting an Appeal**
- 4.1 Prior to submitting an appeal under these procedures, a Student must have completed all steps required by Section I *Reappraisal of Graded Term Work and Academic Assessments (final grades)* of the [academic regulations](#) of the University Calendar, including speaking with the Student's instructor, Associate Dean, and seeking a reappraisal, or sought acceptable resolution at the program level with the instructor, followed by the Associate Dean.
- 4.2 Appellants must submit an appeal to the Dean on or before 11:59 PM (MT) on the tenth (10th) Business Day after completing the steps referred to in Section 4.1 above.
- 4.3 Each appeal to the Dean must be submitted in writing to dean.werklund@ucalgary.ca and must include:
- the Appellant's student ID number, current address and telephone contact number(s),
 - the Academic Assessment decision or Graded Term Work decision being appealed,
 - the specific ground for the appeal,
 - the outcome sought by the Appellant,
 - copies of all documentation relevant to the appeal, including any correspondence regarding the decision being appealed, and
 - copies of any additional supporting evidence.
- 5 Receipt of the Appeal**
- 5.1 The Dean may refer an appeal directly to the WSE FAC, or may seek to resolve the appeal. If the Dean is unable to resolve an appeal to the Appellant's satisfaction, the Dean will forward the appeal to a Chair of the WSE FAC. In either case, the Dean will acknowledge the Appellant's appeal within two (2) Business Days of receipt of the appeal, and, if the Dean is not able to resolve the appeal, forward the appeal to a Chair of the WSE FAC within ten (10) Business Days of receipt of the appeal.



- 5.2 Within ten (10) Business Days of receipt of an appeal from the Dean, the Chair of the WSE FAC will issue correspondence that indicates whether:
 - a) the appeal is denied, or
 - b) the appeal is proceeding to a written or oral hearing before the WSE FAC.
- 5.3 Where the Chair has determined that the appeal is proceeding to a hearing, and the appeal alleges that an Academic Assessment or Graded Term Work decision was determined on some basis other than performance (including instructor bias or discrimination), an oral hearing will normally be held.
- 5.4 If the Chair determines that the appeal is proceeding to a written or oral hearing before the WSE FAC, the correspondence contemplated in Section 5.2 will include:
 - i) the timeline for a written hearing or the oral hearing date, location and time, and
 - ii) the names of the WSE FAC members that will hear and decide the appeal. The Chair will also request a response to the appeal from the Respondent, to be submitted no later than five (5) Business Days before the hearing.

6 Prior to a Hearing

- 6.1 An Appellant and a Respondent will be given five (5) Business Days advance notice of the time and place of the oral hearing. In order to ensure timely resolution of appeals, Appellants and Respondents are expected to make the necessary scheduling arrangements to participate in the hearing. The Chair will grant amendments to the hearing dates only if a written request is made and only if there are exceptional circumstances that necessitate an amendment.
- 6.2 If necessary, an Appellant or a Respondent may be offered the opportunity to attend a hearing over teleconference, videoconference, or some other electronic means.
- 6.3 Both the Appellant and the Respondent have the right to have a person of their choice appear with them at the hearing to support them. Unless otherwise decided by the Chair, persons attending in a support role are not allowed to present evidence, to ask questions or to address either the Respondent or the WSE FAC during the hearing.
- 6.4 Both the Appellant and the Respondent have the right to challenge the membership of the WSE FAC. Challenges may only be made where it is claimed that a WSE FAC member has a conflict of interest that may prevent a fair decision being made. A challenge must be made in writing to the Chair of the WSE FAC, and must include evidence supporting the challenge. A challenge will be decided by the Chair, unless the Chair is the subject of the challenge, in which case the remaining panel members will decide the challenge. If the challenge is successful, the Chair will provide the names of the new panel to the Appellant and the Respondent and adjust the hearing timeline as needed.



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7 Hearing Process

- 6.5 Both the Appellant and Respondent will receive copies of all submissions, documents and evidence relating to the decision being appealed no later than five (5) Business Days before the hearing.
- 7.1 The Chair of the WSE FAC will conduct a written or oral hearing in the manner that they consider fair and reasonable.
- 7.2 Generally, a written hearing process will follow a schedule that provides the Appellant with the final opportunity to respond, in writing, to the written submissions of the Respondent. Applicable timelines associated with the receipt of materials for a hearing are outlined in section 12 below. It is the Chair's decision to set additional deadlines or steps as may be required in a written hearing.
- 7.3 Generally, at the commencement of an oral hearing, the Chair of the WSE FAC Panel will:
- a) introduce everyone participating in the hearing, provide an overview of the process, confirm that there are no conflict of interest matters, and summarize the appeal, the issues to be decided and the outcome sought;
 - b) invite the Appellant to present their appeal;
 - c) invite the Respondent to present the response to the appeal;
 - d) invite questions:
 - i. the Respondent and WSE FAC panel members may ask questions of the Appellant at the conclusion of the Appellant's presentation;
 - ii. the Appellant and WSE FAC panel members may ask questions of the Respondent at the conclusion of the Respondent's presentation;
 - iii. it is the Chair's decision what, if any, questions will be allowed at the hearing;
 - iv. all questions posed by the Appellant, Respondent or WSE FAC panel members must be directed through the Chair;
 - e) provide the Respondent with an opportunity to make any final comments; and
 - f) provide the Appellant with an opportunity to make any final comments.
- 7.4 Following either an oral or written hearing process, the WSE FAC will meet *in camera* to consider the evidence and make a decision. Legal Counsel to the WSE FAC, if any, and any support personnel for the WSE FAC may attend deliberations.
- 7.5 If the Appellant or Respondent do not attend an oral hearing or participate in a written hearing process, the WSE FAC may proceed with the hearing in the absence of the Appellant or Respondent and, for oral hearings, may accept the written documentation submitted by the non-attending party in lieu of oral submissions made in person.



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- 8 The WSE FAC Decision**
- 8.1 All members of the WSE FAC hearing an appeal will vote. The final decision will be carried by a majority vote.
- 8.2 Decisions of the WSE FAC will be based solely on information, documentation and evidence that has been submitted to the Committee from the Appellant and the Respondent or that has been provided in advance of, or at, the hearing to the Appellant and Respondent by the WSE FAC.
- 8.3 The WSE FAC decision will normally include a brief description of the history of the appeal, a summary of the evidence, the reasons for the decision and the resulting outcome. The decision letter will also inform the Appellant that they may have a further right of appeal under the Student Misconduct and Academic Appeals Policy. The WSE FAC decision will not record any dissenting opinions, and decisions of the WSE FAC regarding Graded Term Work are final and not appealable at the University.
- 8.4 The Chair of the WSE FAC will distribute the decision, using UCalgary email addresses, to the following within seven (7) Business Days of the close of the written hearing process or the end of the oral hearing to:
- a) the Appellant,
 - b) the Respondent,
 - c) the Associate Dean of the appropriate program office, and
 - d) if appropriate, the Registrar.
- 8.5 The Chair can make recommendations to the Dean to improve Faculty regulations or procedures.
- 9 Confidentiality and Recording of Information**
- 9.1 All written and oral information regarding an appeal is confidential;
- 9.2 A hearing will not be open to the public;
- 9.3 All appeal records will be retained for twelve (12) years; and
- 9.4 There will be no audio or video recording of the hearing by the WSE FAC or any party or participant.
- 10 Jurisdiction of the Dean, the Chair of the WSE the FAC, and the FAC¹**
- 10.1 The Dean of the WSE has the jurisdiction to resolve an appeal made under these procedures to an Appellant's satisfaction in any circumstance.
- 10.2 In addition to participating in the decision making process for appeals made under these procedures, the Chair of the Faculty Appeals Committee also has the

¹ **NOTE:** In the case where the Academic Assessment being appealed is the initial decision of the Faculty of Graduate Studies regarding a Graduate Student's thesis exam or candidacy component, the appeal must be made to the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Please see the University and Graduate Calendars for more information.



jurisdiction to deny an appeal, or to determine that a hearing is necessary and the process for that hearing.

10.3 The Chair may only deny an appeal where:

- a) the appeal was not submitted before the deadline;
- b) the decision being appealed is not identified;
- c) the appeal does not contain the information required by these procedures;
- d) the decision being appealed does not fall within the jurisdiction of the WSE FAC;
- e) the appeal is made by a person who is not a Student, or the legal counsel of a Student;
- f) the Appellant has not yet completed all steps required in Section I *Reappraisal of Graded Term Work and Academic Assessments (final grades)* of the [academic regulations](#) of the University Calendar regarding reappraisal of term work or reappraisal of final grade, including speaking with the Student's instructor, and associate dean, and seeking a grade reappraisal, if appropriate; or
- g) the Appellant does not raise any grounds or request a specific outcome, or raises grounds or outcomes other than those permitted by these procedures.

10.4 A decision made by the Chair in accordance with this procedure is final and not appealable at the University.

10.5 The WSE FAC has the jurisdiction to hear and decide appeals of Academic Assessments and Graded Term Work.

10.6 The WSE FAC does not have jurisdiction to hear appeals regarding decisions related to:

- a) Student Academic Misconduct;
- b) Student Non-academic Misconduct;
- c) Academic Progression Matters;
- d) the Student Accommodation Policy; or
- e) extenuating circumstances.

10.7 After hearing an appeal, the WSE FAC may:

- a) deny the appeal;
- b) uphold the appeal and direct that Graded Term Work be discounted from the final grade achieved;
- c) uphold the appeal and determine that the Academic Assessment decision or Graded Term Work decision be returned to the Program Office or decision maker for another reappraisal, as directed by the WSE FAC or
- d) uphold the appeal and direct that the Academic Assessment decision or Graded Term Work decision be returned to the Program Office or decision



maker for other resolution in accordance with applicable University and Faculty policies, regulations and procedures.

11 Composition of the Faculty Appeals Committee

- 11.1 The WSE FAC shall consist of five (5) members:
 - a) One (1) tenured academic staff member serving as Chair,
 - b) Three (3) academic staff members serving as committee members,
 - c) One (1) student (graduate or undergraduate, as appropriate).
- 11.2 Academic staff members from WSE will be elected to serve on FAC by the WSE Faculty Council. Elected members will select a Chair and a Co-Chair from among the elected members.
- 11.3 Student members will be appointed by the Educational Students Association and the Graduate Programs in Education Students Association.
- 11.4 Academic staff will serve for one (1), two (2) or three (3) years, determined at time of appointment. The Chair should serve at least two (2) years to ensure continuity. Terms will be staggered so as not to have a complete turnover in membership at any one time.
- 11.5 Quorum of the WSE FAC will be three (3) or more academic staff members elected pursuant to this procedure.

12 Timelines

Appeal Step	Timeline for Communication
Student has completed all steps required by Section I <i>Reappraisal of Graded Term Work and Academic Assessments (final grades)</i> of the academic regulations of the University Calendar	Refer to Section I <i>Reappraisal of Graded Term Work and Academic Assessments (final grades)</i> of the academic regulations of University Calendar
Student submits appeal to the Dean	Within 10 Business Days of the date of the written decision being appealed
Dean will acknowledge receipt of the appeal	Within 2 Business Days of receipt of the appeal
Dean will resolve the appeal or forward to the WSE FAC Chair	Within 10 Business Days of receipt of the appeal



<p>The WSE FAC Chair will determine whether the appeal is denied or whether the appeal will proceed to a written or oral hearing. If appeal is proceeding to a hearing, Chair will request the Respondent provide a response to the appeal.</p>	<p>Within 10 Business Days of the date of receipt of the appeal</p>
<p>Circulation of all submissions, documentation and evidence that will be used by the WSE FAC in making its decision to the Appellant, Respondent and to the WSE FAC</p>	<p>No later than 5 Business Days before the hearing.</p>
<p>WSE FAC decision</p>	<p>Normally within 7 Business Days after the hearing.</p>
<p>Appeal to University Appeals Committee (UAC)</p>	<p>Where appropriate, within 10 Business Days of the date of the written WSE FAC decision</p>