

CERJ Advice on Student Grade Change Request
July 2, 2010

Background

The Committee on Elections, Rules and Jurisdiction has been asked by the Grade Change Committee for advice regarding a grade change request from a student. The basis of the request was a mid-quarter change in the grading procedure that was stated in the syllabus, which may not have been adequately announced, and which apparently resulted in a lowering of the student's grade.

Advice

According to Davis Division Bylaw 79(B): "It shall be the duty of this committee to advise the Registrar on matters of grade change policy and to adjudicate grade change requests which are not unambiguously justified by the Regulations of the Academic Senate and of the Davis Division."

The relevant Davis Division Regulation 537(A): "By the end of the first week of instruction, the instructor will provide students with a course outline containing information regarding the **anticipated**: topical content of the course, amount and kind of work expected, and examination and grading procedures" (emphasis added). Nothing in the regulation requires the instructor to adhere to the anticipated grading procedure.

The student's request for a grade change is therefore not unambiguously justified in his or her grade-change request, and hence it is the responsibility of GCC to adjudicate the request.

It should be noted that GCC's published Guideline 15 asserts GCC's right to make a grade-change that it opposed by the instructor when it finds that a clerical or procedural error has been made. If GCC deems the present case to involve a procedural error, then by its own rules, it may make the grade change.