



OFFICE OF THE FACULTY COUNCIL

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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September 14, 2017

Provost Maurie McInnis  
The University of Texas at Austin MAI 4005  
Campus Mail Code: G3400 Dear Provost McInnis:

Dear Provost McInnis,

Enclosed for your consideration and action is a proposal from the Educational Policy Committee recommending changes to the Student Discipline and Conduct policy in the *General Information Catalog* (D 15389-15391). The Faculty Council approved the legislation on a no-protest basis on September 13, 2017.

Please provide your recommendation for approval or disapproval to President Fenves. Final approval resides with his office.

Let me know if you have questions or if I can provide other information concerning this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan W. Friedman".

Alan W. Friedman, Secretary

General Faculty and Faculty Council

The University of Texas at Austin

Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and  
Comparative Literature

AWF:dlr Enclosure

ec: Michelle K. George, Administrative Manager for Faculty Affairs, Provost's Office  
Lydia A. Cornell, Administrative Program Coordinator, Provost's Office  
Carlos Martinez, Chief of Staff, President's Office  
Susan Lamborghini, Assistant to Chief of Staff, President's Office  
Cynthia M. Sanchez, Executive Assistant-Program Coordinator, President's Office  
Seema Agarwala, Chair of the Educational Policy Committee

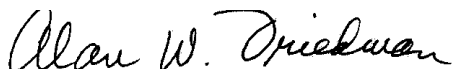
## DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE GENERAL INFORMATION CATALOG, APPENDIX C, SECTION 11 ON STUDENT DISCIPLINE AND CONDUCT AND TO THE FACULTY DISPOSITION FORM AS APPROVED BY THE EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE**

On behalf of the Educational Policy Committee, Professor Seema Agarwala (Committee Chair and Associate Professor, Molecular Biosciences) submitted the following revisions to the Student Discipline and Conduct Policy in the *General Information Catalog*. The secretary has classified it as legislation of general interest. Final approval resides with the President.

If no objection is filed with the Office of the General Faculty by the date specified below, the legislation will be held to have been approved by the Faculty Council. If an objection is filed within the prescribed period, the legislation will be presented to the Faculty Council at its meeting on September 18, 2017. The objection, with reasons, must be signed by a member of the Faculty Council.

To be counted, a protest must be received in the Office of the General Faculty by September 13, 2017.



Alan W. Friedman, Secretary  
General Faculty and Faculty Council  
The University of Texas at Austin  
Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature

**PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE GENERAL INFORMATION CATALOG, APPENDIX C, SECTION 11 ON STUDENT DISCIPLINE AND CONDUCT AND TO THE FACULTY DISPOSITION FORM AS APPROVED BY THE EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE**

**Proposed Change to** The General Information Catalog (Appendix C, Section 11 on Student Discipline and Conduct: <http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/appendices/appendix-c/student-discipline-and-conduct/>) and The Faculty Disposition Form.

**Rationale:**

When students engage in academic dishonesty in courses, faculty are encouraged to file a Faculty Disposition Form with the office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI), formerly called Student Judicial Services. By signing this form, the student agrees to the following statement:

"I understand that due to my academic violation I will not be able to use a *Q*-Drop or One Time Exception (OTE) to drop this course."

This statement on the faculty disposition form is the *\*only\** place this policy explicitly appears.

The specific statement in the General Information Catalog (Appendix C, Section 11 on Student Discipline and Conduct) says:

Sec. 11-506. Pending Academic Investigations and *Q*-Drops

- a. A student may not drop a class if there are any pending investigations of Academic Dishonesty for the class in question.
- b. Any drop assigned will not be considered final until any investigations of Academic Dishonesty for the class in question are resolved."

-Students who receive a course-grade sanction (e.g., an *F* for the course) for academic dishonesty should not be allowed to *Q*-drop a course as currently stated in the catalog (Section 11-506) and the Faculty Disposition Form (see above).

-However, students often receive milder sanctions (e.g., a zero on an assignment, but not an overall course grade of *F*), and can still pass the class. These students may have other legitimate reasons (outside of the zero on the said assignment) for wanting to drop a class. Preventing the drop in such scenarios explicitly prevents faculty from "disposing" of the academic dishonesty cases as they see fit (which is ostensibly the point of "faculty disposition"). As currently written, the policy can also cause faculty to not report cases of academic dishonesty to SCAI because of the inability to provide a sanction that is less than preventing a *Q*-drop. The complete prevention of *Q*-Drop or the use of the OTE, even after the student and faculty involved agree on a disposition, seems like a *\*significant\** over-interpretation of the written policy. These students should be allowed to drop the course within all of the other guidelines surrounding drops.

**Proposed Changes:**

**1. Modify Appendix C, Section 11-506 in the General Information Catalog for clarity as follows:**

The policy as currently written:

**Sec. 11-506. Pending Academic Investigations and *Q*-Drops**

- a. A student may not drop a class if there are any pending investigations of Academic Dishonesty for the class in question.
- b. Any drop assigned will not be considered final until any investigations of Academic Dishonesty for the class in question are resolved.

Proposed Changes (Annotated Version):

**Sec. 11-506. [Pending] Academic Dishonesty Investigations and Q-Drops/OTEs**

- a. ~~[A student may not drop a class if there are any pending investigations of Academic Dishonesty for the class in question.]~~ Students are recommended to continue attending class until any investigation of academic dishonesty is finalized by the office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.
- b. Any drop assigned will not be considered final until any investigations of Academic Dishonesty for the class in question are resolved by the office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.
- c. A student may not drop a course if a final sanction is an F in the course.

Clean Version:

**Sec. 11-506. Academic Dishonesty Investigations and Q-Drops/OTEs**

- a. Students are recommended to continue attending class until any and all investigations of academic dishonesty are finalized by the office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (formerly called Student Judicial Services or SJS).
- b. Any drop assigned will not be considered final until any and all investigations of Academic Dishonesty for the class in question are resolved by the office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.
- c. A student may not drop a course if a final sanction is an F in the course.

**2. Proposed changes to the Student Disposition Form**

For consistency with Section 11-506 in the *General Information Catalog*, we propose the following changes to the Student Disposition Form:

As Currently Written:

I understand that due to my academic violation I will not be able to use a Q-Drop or One Time Exception (OTE) to drop this course.

Proposed Changes:

I understand that if the result of this disposition or investigation is a final course grade of an F, I will not be able to use a Q-Drop or One Time Exception (OTE) as a final outcome for this course.