

## Student Academic Grievance Policy 6.4.10 Change

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### Summary of the committee's charge

The AU Student Academic Grievance Committee was charged with reviewing and proposing revisions to the Student Academic Grievance Policy 6.4.10, specifically focusing on allowing advisors to accompany students to hearings, as described in the report.

### Brief description of the way in which the committee undertook its charge

The AU Faculty Grievance Procedure grants employees the right to have one advisor of their choice present at each step of the grievance procedure. However, the AU Student Academic Grievance Policy does not extend this same right to students. It is essential that both faculty and students have equal rights to representation in grievance hearings. Therefore, based on this principle of fairness, the Student Government Association (SGA) recommends the following revisions to the Student Academic Grievance Policy 6.4.10:

*6.4.10. The only persons present at full academic grievance hearings of this Committee shall be committee members, the complainant and the respondent(s), and material witnesses actually testifying before the Committee. Complainants and respondent(s) also have the right to have an advisor accompany them at their hearing. This advisor may not be an active participant during the hearing. The advisor must be a current Auburn faculty member, staff member, employee, or student that is not involved in any active case before this Committee. The advisor must be able to be present at the scheduled date and time for a hearing. Delays will not normally be allowed due to scheduling conflicts of an advisor.*

The Student Academic Grievance Committee has permitted students to have a support person accompany them to hearings for several years. However, the committee has faced challenges, particularly with regards to parental involvement and the presence of lawyers during hearings. Therefore, all committee members unanimously support the following additional revision.

6.4.10. The only persons present at full academic grievance hearings of this Committee shall be committee members, the complainant and the respondent(s), and material witnesses testifying before the Committee. Complainants and respondent(s) also have the right to have an advisor accompany them at their hearing. This advisor may not be an active participant during the hearing and may not be involved in the case beyond the advisory role. The advisor must be a current Auburn faculty member, staff member, employee, or student **that is not related to the complainant or the respondent.** The advisor must be able to be present at the scheduled date and time for a hearing. Delays will not normally be allowed due to scheduling conflicts of an advisor. **Both the complainant and the respondent(s) should be notified in advance of all anticipated hearing attendees and any conflicts of interest should be disclosed to the committee chair.**

### Conclusion and Recommendation

The Student Academic Grievance Committee moves to revise the Student Academic Grievance Policy to allow for an advisor to accompany students to hearings as described in the report.