

**Academic Support
& Student Affairs**

Committee Report

Charges for AY2015-2016

1. The **IP Policy** includes an appeals provision which would allow faculty to bring questions regarding ownership to the RIT Intellectual Property Policy Committee and then the appropriate divisional vice president (See C03.0 (IV) (N)). Investigate if this policy ensures and has the proper safeguards for faculty, and propose revisions if found otherwise.
2. Follow up on the consultant's recommendations for improving the **students counseling and health centers programs** and services.
3. Review policy **D17.0 Final course grade dispute policy** and make sure it is compliant with other policies.
4. Review current policies related to the **confidentiality and privacy of student health information** and propose necessary changes to the ways in which policies are communicated to students, faculty, staff, and families (hereafter "consumers").
 - a) Determine (to the extent possible) what student health information at RIT is covered under the more restrictive HIPPA law and what information is covered under the more permissive FERPA law.
 - b) b. Propose changes as necessary to ensure that a reasonable consumer would understand the degree to which health information is protected from unwanted and unexpected disclosure, either by prohibiting unwanted disclosures or by ensuring consumer knowledge of potential disclosure.
 - c) c. Examine the disclosure of student health information in university disciplinary proceedings.

1. IP Policy: Safeguards for Faculty

- Investigated C3.0 Policy to ensure faculty have proper safeguards on IP
 - Also looked into topical connections in RIT Honor Code and Conflict of Interest policy
- Met with Bill Bond, acting chair of IP Committee, director of IP Management Office and author of C3.0 Policy
- Found that RIT's Intellectual Policy has very minimal restrictions on student and faculty ownership of IP
- freedom that faculty current have with RIT's liberal IP policies is rare in higher education
- There is an appeals process built in for the IP committee, but has never been a case of a faculty member needing to go through this process

1. IP Policy: Safeguards for Faculty

- The committee did not find any recent cases showing a conflict in policy where the policy in question showed potential for conflict or contradiction.
- No suggested action is recommended by the committee.

2. Student Health/Counseling Center Improvements

- Charge continues from last year in order to follow-up on concerns pertaining to mental health care access for students
- SVP of Student Affairs Dr. Sandra Johnson started a re-evaluation of Counseling Center and Student Health Center last year
- Student Health Center consultants Keeling & Associates brought in last year and made a series of 10 recommendations for RIT
- Our committee compared those recommendations to the progress that's been made in the past year

2. Student Health/Counseling Center Improvements

- The committee found that the majority of the 10 recommendations have already been implemented, or are currently being implemented
- Highlights of changes being made:
 - Student Affairs division completely reorganized, AVP of Health/Wellness position created and filled by Dr. Wendy Gelbard this past Fall semester
 - Dr. David Reetz selected as new Director of Counseling Center
 - Case Manager position created in Counseling Center, psychiatry moved from SHC to CC
 - Group therapy model and phone intake systems completely re-vamped
 - Dr. Reetz adds an additional 1.0 FTE psychologist, with plans to add more to reach recommended 2.5 additional FTE psychologists to accommodate size of student body
 - Future vision includes accreditation for Counseling Center

2. Student Health/Counseling Center Improvements

- Newly Reorganized Division of Student Affairs has accommodated a great amount of change in the Student Health Center/Counseling center in a very short amount of time
- Process is expected to continue well into the future, with many of the recommendations already in effect
- Recommend that Academic Senate:

“Motion to show support, as part of the wider strategic position, for the changes occurring in the Student Affairs division in regards to the Student Health Center and Counseling Center, including a movement towards accreditation for the Counseling Center which includes the addition of more full-time psychologists which will help accommodate the needs of our campus’ student population.”

3. Final Course Grade Dispute Policy Review

- Committee reviewed all relevant policies to establish if any inconsistencies were present
- Policy D17.0 Final Course Grade Dispute turned out to be fine, but several related policies had issues with references to the Academic Appeals Sub-committee
- Found several changes that were needed in order to revise inconsistencies in Policy D08.0 and D18.0

3. Final Course Grade Dispute Policy Review

Our suggestions are changes to the wording of D8 and D17 to clear up any perceived inconsistencies and make sure they are all compliant.

- The committee suggests to change “Institute” to “University” in D8.0.VII 2nd line “..Academic Appeals Sub-Committee of the *Institute* Appeals Board (see Policy D18.0, section VI)”.
- We also suggest changing “VI” to “IX”.
- In addition, we also suggest the following change in a slight inconsistency in D17 in section III.B where it refers to “Academic *Conduct* Committee”, we believe it should read “Academic *Integrity* Committee” to be consistent with D08.0.

4. Student Health Information Privacy

- Committee found that RIT is not covered under HIPAA, all student RIT medical information falls under FERPA
- Some providers may not have been aware that RIT students are not covered under HIPAA
- Student medical information is not disclosed in disciplinary proceedings unless it is directly related to a potentially life-threatening situation

4. Student Health Information Privacy

- Committee suggests that RIT takes steps to better communicate with students and providers that RIT is not HIPAA compliant
- Committee suggests Academic Senate promote the Student Behavioral Consultation Team (SBCT) among faculty so instructors know how to refer students with medical issues correctly while protecting their privacy