

**Recommendation of the Graduate Faculty Committee for Changes to the Admission, Continuation, and Dismissal Policies of the Graduate School**

**RATIONALE:**

This document revises the appeal process for academic dismissals. The current version of this policy does not specify an appeal process for dismissals. It presumes that students will use the standard process for appealing academic decisions for dismissals. However, this resulted in a two-step process for dismissals, rather than the required three-step process.

The reason has to do with the point of origin of dismissals. Most other academic decisions, such as a course grade, originate from a single instructor. As a result, students make the Step 1 appeal directly to that instructor. If the result of that appeal is negative, the student may then appeal to a panel designated to hear academic appeals at Step 2. The problem is that dismissals typically originate from something like the panel designated to hear academic appeals at Step 2. As a result, the student's first appeal, which should be Step 1, tended to go to the Step 2 panel, after which it typically proceeded directly to Step 3, the Dean of the Graduate School.

This revision specifies a separate Step 2 for dismissal cases only. Step 1 will be heard by the source of the dismissal decision. Step 2 appeal will be heard by the Graduate School's Scholastic Appeals Committee, the same body that convenes to consider cases of academic misconduct.

Step 3 will be heard by the Dean of the Graduate School, as in all other academic appeals. This revision ensures that students have access to a full three-step process.

The substantive revision appears in the new Section III of this document. Several other cosmetic revisions and revisions for clarity have also been made in Section I and II, and in the title.