

Original motion offered Dec. 13, 2021, and delayed for further discussion:

Whereas ethics plays a major role in the education of today's undergraduate student,

Whereas asking for a higher grade ("grade grubbing") falls in the realm of the unethical when a student doesn't deserve it,

Whereas asking for extra credit falls in the realm of the unethical when none exists,

Whereas faculty are being inundated with requests and re-requests for grades the students didn't earn or deserve, (e.g., literally, "Pretty please..." in response to "The grading policy is on the syllabus." from the professor)

Whereas faculty could use an "amorphous blob" to point to when denying students' requests for grades they didn't earn (scilicet, "Policy such-and-such section so-and-so forbids professors to entertain requests for undeserved and/or unearned grades on the grounds that is unethical for you to even ask." or similar),

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate Executive Council draft language for the appropriate policy saying as much.

Senators,

T. Hale, Mays School of Business

T. Pantuso, College of Liberal Arts

Additional information has been provided to suggest an appropriate citation for the rule change:

*Student Rule 20.1.2.3.10 Solicitation: The act or instance of requesting or seeking to request a grade or grade adjustment from an instructor.*

*Examples:*

- a. *Requesting additional points from the instructor which have not been earned through the normal efforts and activities of the student in the course.*
- b. *Requesting additional assignments from the instructor which would normally not be offered by the instructor in the course and/or not offered to all students in the course.*
- c. *Requesting additional extra credit opportunities from the instructor which would normally not be offered by the instructor in the course and/or not offered to all students in the course.*
- d. *Any action in which a student attempts to pressure, influence, or request additional points or grade changes in a course that the student has failed to earn under the conditions outlined by the syllabus for the course.*

Justification for rule change: The act of solicitation, requesting or seeking to request a grade or grade adjustment from an instructor, forces the instructor into an unnecessary ethical dilemma. Changing a grade for a student based on such a baseless request constitutes a breach of ethics in that it effectively alters the grading scale established for the course and codified within the syllabus. In doing so, the instructor for the course becomes complicit in actions which are inherently unfair and discriminatory to all other members of the course. Solicitation of this nature by the student must be classified as misconduct as it constitutes a direct and intentional attempt to draw instructors into such an ethical breach opening instructors and the university up to undue scrutiny, scandal, and the possibility of legal repercussions.