

Three Proposed Changes to the Code of Academic Integrity

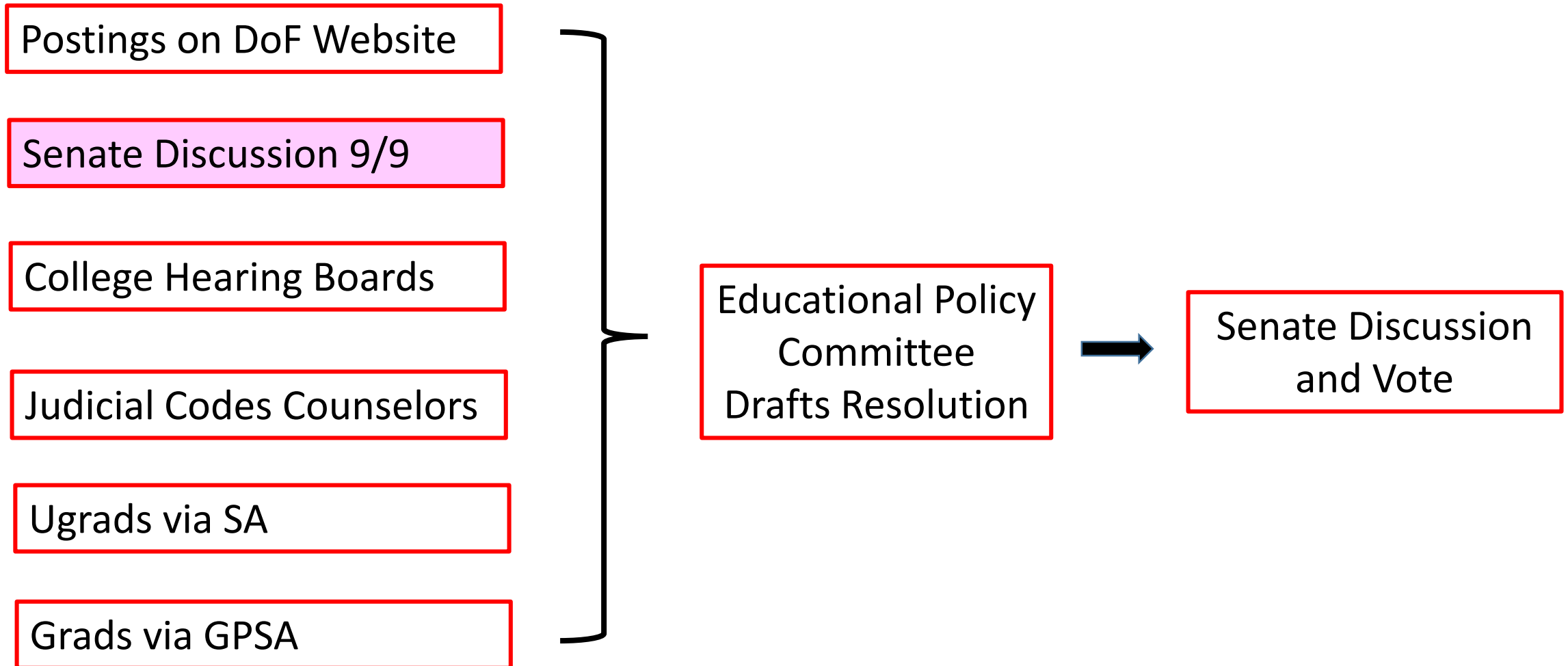
[Using Video in Lieu of the Primary Hearing Witness](#)

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All driven by Spring 2020 Experiences

The Discussion/Approval Process



Using Video in Lieu of Having an Independent Witness At the Primary Hearing

The Issue

The job of the independent witness is to take sufficiently detailed notes of the hearing so that subsequent disputes as to what transpired can be resolved. The independent witness is a significant overhead associated with the Primary Hearing and historically has had marginal value.

The Solution

Hold the hearing via Zoom and let the video/audio recording play the role of the independent witness?

Preliminary Feedback

- Recording captures too much thereby creating legal vulnerability?
- Can the recording be played at an appeal?
- The recording itself: Who has access to it? Where is it archived? Rules for erasing?

A Method for Handling Cases that Involve Many Students

The Issue

If a case involves a large number of students then it becomes impractical for the instructor to attend every primary hearing.

The Solution

If a case involves more than three students then the instructor has the option of delegating their role in the Primary Hearing to a member of the staff or faculty who is affiliated with their department. The designee must be approved by their chair and it is upon the advice of the designee that the instructor makes a ruling. The instructor may wish to engage with the student before making a decision. If such a dialog takes place then it is to be treated as part of the Primary Hearing.

Preliminary Feedback

- Without actual instructor-student dialog the “educational value” of the hearing is diminished.
- Distancing the student from the instructor at the hearing and then having the instructor make the ruling threatens is a recipe for unfairness. OK for the instructor to delegate the presentation of evidence at the hearing, but then some neutral party should make the ruling.

Giving the Instructor the Right to Change the Student's Chosen Grade Option

The Problem

A typical sanction might involve the lowering of the final grade by some specified amount. This option is generally not available to the instructor if the violator is taking the course S/U.

The Solution

If the student is taking the course S/U then the instructor has the authority to have the selected grade option changed to "letter grade" provided the course is not "S/U Only".

Preliminary Feedback

- Let the S/U student decide, e.g., “Do you want a U or some reduced letter grade?”
- Forcing a student to change to a letter grade option while also imposing a grade penalty is akin to sanctioning a student twice for a single infraction. Let the student decide.