

Level III: If a student is not satisfied with the outcome rendered by the College-Level Grievance Committee, he or she must (within ten days of receipt of the letter from the CLGC) submit a formal appeal application to the Dean of the Graduate School. Appeal applications must also be accompanied by copies of the findings from the Department and College-Level Grievance Committees. Within fifteen days of receipt of the completed application, the Dean of Graduate Studies will convene a University Grievance Committee that consists of at least three graduate faculty (to exclude faculty from department or class from which the issue arose and faculty who served on the College-Level Grievance Committee). The Dean of Graduate Studies will also identify a member of the graduate faculty to serve as chair of the committee. The Committee may also include a graduate student (to exclude students from the department or class from which the issue arose) and the Director of Institutional Research who will serve in an ex-officio capacity. At least seven days before the hearing, the Office of Graduate Studies will submit to members of the Committee any documents or physical evidence to be presented at the hearing. The Committee chair shall establish a time and place for a hearing to be held no later than ten days from the date of final determination of the Committee membership, unless for good reason stated in writing to the complaint and other concerned parties the Committee chair schedules the hearing for a later specified date. Hearings are conducted, with the Committee chair presiding, in closed session. Only evidence submitted in a timely manner, to the Graduate School, is considered in determining the validity of the complaint. Hearings are conducted with reasonable dispatch and terminated as soon as fairness to all parties involved permits. Students submitting a complaint are not allowed to bring an associate or companion. Moreover, the presence of an attorney is neither necessary nor recommended. However, if the student elects to have counsel present, the University's attorney must also be afforded an opportunity to attend. Accordingly, the student must notify The Graduate School, in writing, at least seven days prior to the Hearing if he/she intends to have an attorney present. The attorney's presence at the Hearing does not change the proceeding. Examination of witnesses; questioning of parties or direct participation in the proceeding by the attorney is not permitted. An attorney may speak in an unobtrusive manner with his/her client in an advisory capacity.

Within 15 days after the Hearing adjourns, the Committee shall present to the Dean of The Graduate School its report, including findings, conclusions, and recommendations for action. A written summary of the proceedings and an audio recording of testimony are retained for at least one year.

The Dean of The Graduate School, within 5 days after receipt of the Committee report, shall approve and transmit the report to the University Provost for review and ratification. At this juncture, the report is sent back to the Dean of Graduate Studies for dispensation. The dispensation process shall include an evaluation of the validity of the grievance and a statement of the action to be taken. Copies of the decision shall be transmitted to the student, the faculty and staff member(s) involved, the Dean of the College, within fifteen days of receipt of the signed document, by the Dean of Graduate Studies.

The decision of the Graduate Grievance Committee shall become final at the close of the seventh day after issuance of the final document with the Provost's review and ratification unless the student or any other party directly involved files a written request for consideration of the findings to the Provost, whose review will be limited to the hearing record.