

PARENTAL LIMIT TO ACCESS RE STUDENT PERFORMANCE:

Extracted from Council of Deans Minutes of November 17, 1999:

Dean Trost asked for guidance regarding a student whose parents call every instructor of the student on a weekly basis to talk about the student's performance and sometimes to challenge the way the course is being taught. The faculty members are beginning to feel harassed, and Dean Trost asked if we could set forth a policy which limits such contacts by parents to a reasonable number. In this instance, the student has signed the consent form which legitimates the parents being informed regarding the student's grades.

The Provost should contact the University's Legal Counsel to determine if such a policy can be instituted and what would constitute reasonable access for parents.

email to members of the Council of Deans on 12/8/99:

Colleagues:

A few weeks ago, the Council had discussed the issue of undue demands by parents on instructors. E.g., calling frequently regarding performance of child or other similar demands. This would in instances when the student had signed the waiver.

Our legal counsel, Bill Wagner, says the following:

It is perfectly acceptable for VU to devise a policy which provides the framework for such contacts and limits them. Thus, the contacts could be linked to evaluation periods in a given instructors course or some other reasonable limits defined. The policy should be flexible enough to accommodate special circumstances.

I suppose, the next step should be to commission a group to devise this policy.

Should we just do it at the COD level?

Should it be a university-wide faculty group?---in which case I will need nominations of faculty members from each college with the usual two from A&S.

Or should we just ask Al to convene such a group (and perhaps assign the task to his associate dean) since the problem arose most recently in his college, and then let him bring this policy to COD?

Please let me know what you favor. Then I will need your wisdom on where such a policy should be publicized. Is the Student Handbook enough? Or does it also need to be in the Faculty Handbook?

Renu

Renu Juneja
Associate Provost and Professor of English
Email: Renu.Juneja@valpo.edu
Valparaiso University