

**THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE  
FACULTY SENATE**

**Senate Resolution 11-12/10: Cross-Boundary Complaints  
(Handbook Revision)**

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Bill History:   02/16/12 FS Exec. Comm. Placed on Senate Agenda (First Reading) (Provost/Counsel Request)  
                  02/23/12 Before Faculty Senate at Second Reading; time expired before consideration  
                  03/15/12 Approved by Faculty Senate at Second Reading  
                  04/19/12 Final Approval (Third Reading) by Faculty Senate

1   **WHEREAS:**               The Provost and General Counsel have requested a revision to the Faculty  
2                               Handbook to clarify for faculty the handling of “cross-boundary” complaints and  
3                               grievances, with *cross-boundary complaint or grievance* meaning (1) a  
4                               complaint or grievance directed at a faculty member by a student or a non-  
5                               faculty University employee (especially, one not assigned to an academic unit  
6                               (e.g., College, School, Department, Division, Program, etc.) ) or (2) a complaint  
7                               or grievance by a faculty member directed at a student or non-faculty University  
8                               employee; and

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10 **WHEREAS:**               The Provost and General Counsel have suggested it may be valuable to highlight  
11                               to faculty that grievances can be directed at or arise from non-faculty employees,  
12                               including such individuals not assigned to an academic unit; and

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14 **WHEREAS:**               The Provost and General Counsel intend to seek incorporation of analogous  
15                               clarifications to student and staff codes and procedures, and

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17 **WHEREAS:**               It is advantageous to update the next edition of the Faculty Handbook to include  
18                               the needed changes,

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21 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

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23 That Appendix E of the Faculty Handbook be revised with the addition of the following new  
24 fourth paragraph (i.e., to follow the paragraph that begins “The deadlines outlined below” and to

25 precede the heading “Appeal within the Administrative Chain”):

26 Faculty are advised that staff (including staff not assigned to an academic unit such as a  
27 Program, Division, Department, School, or College) and students wishing to make a general  
28 grievance against a faculty member will do so with this section’s process. Such individuals,  
29 in particular students, may have sought the advice of campus officials, such as the Dean of  
30 Students, to determine the process that is to be followed. Faculty are also advised that  
31 general grievances against a staff member or student are not covered by the procedures  
32 described in this Faculty Handbook section. Faculty wishing to make such complaints or  
33 grievances are directed to the procedures described in other relevant documents. Faculty  
34 wishing to proceed with such complaints or grievances may seek the advice of relevant  
35 campus officials (e.g., Dean of Students for complaints against students) for advisement  
36 about the process. Nothing in the statement here is to be construed as limiting a faculty  
37 member's prerogative to deal with academic misconduct within the context of a course.  
38 Such prerogative is discussed elsewhere in this Handbook.

39

40 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

41 That this change be incorporated in the Handbook revision slated to soon be sent to the Board of  
42 Trustees for final approval, with this change taking effect upon said final approval of the rest of  
43 the Handbook.

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