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# Student-Faculty Classroom Conduct Policy

USM Faculty Senate

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## The Need for the Development of a Student-Faculty Classroom Conduct Policy and Process at USM

Over the past few years there have been several instances where there have been complaints filed about faculty conduct in the classroom. In these cases, the faculty members were, in general, suspended from classroom duties until the appropriate information was gathered and/or a remedy was enacted.

During the course of these events, it was made clear that at USM, there was no clear policy on Faculty-Student Conduct in the classroom and that there was no clear guidance or process in place for how to address a complaint filed against a faculty member or a student. There was no process in place for gathering information, holding a hearing on the situation, making a decision of an action, or for there to be an appeal of that decision.

There was also no policy for a follow-through evaluation of the outcome of the action and/or remedy to the situation.

This void needs to be addressed in a comprehensive and inclusive manner so that there is a clear set of Faculty-Student Classroom Conduct policies that are known by all at USM, a process for bringing a complaint about inappropriate conduct, an information gathering process, a hearing of such information, a set of possible remedial actions, a process for appeals of the proposed remedial action and a means to evaluate the effectiveness of the action in addressing proper classroom conduct by either a student or a faculty member.

Therefore, the Faculty Senate recommends that the administration appoint a committee with representation from all stakeholder groups to develop the framework for Faculty-Student Conduct in the classroom that addresses policy and process from the initial filing of a complaint to the eventual resolution and solution of the conduct issue. This Conduct Policy should be included or referenced in the USM Student Handbook and the Faculty Handbook.