

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY RIGHTS, SECTION VI.D.11 – NOTICE AND COMMENT

The Board of Trustees revised Section VI.D.11 of the Lone Star College District Policy Manual on March 3, 2016. The notice and comment period for the policy was open to the public from **December 7, 2015, through January 15, 2016**. Students with Disability Rights procedures were last updated on **May 26, 2016**. The notice and comment period for the procedures was open to the public from **April 26, 2016, through May 26, 2016**. The policy and procedures were posted for public comment at <http://www.lonestar.edu/proposed-policies.htm>. Commenters anonymously submitted comments to LSC-ProcedureFeedback@lonestar.edu and LSC-PolicyFeedback@lonestar.edu. We received a total of three comments.

Comment 1: Commenters noted the presence of a confusing term in the Student Disability Rights policy pertaining to a student request of reconsideration or revision. Commenters noted that the term “mid-semester” could be interpreted to mean only during the middle of the semester and highlighted that students can request accommodation or request accommodation revision at any period during the semester.

Response 1: The Office of the General Counsel agrees with commenters and believes the term “mid-semester” could be misinterpreted in Board Policy Section VI.D.11.03. Therefore, the language was changed to broaden the applicable time period.

Comment 2: Commenters noted the importance of keeping student disability records secure in the Student Disability Rights policy. Commenters expressed the concern that individuals other than disability service providers request access to a student’s disability information.

Response 2: The Office of the General Counsel will work with the College’s disability service providers to help educate College faculty and staff on the responsibility and requirements of keeping disability information secure and confidential.

Comment 3: Commenters requested clarification on the Student Disability Rights procedures regarding academic appeals where students assert their grade was due to either improper accommodation implementation or failure to implement accommodation.

Response 3: The Office of the General Counsel has included procedures for Academic Appeals Citing Accommodation Implementation in the Student with Disability Rights Procedures section III(c)(1). Under this section, the Executive Director of Disability Services will be notified if a student submits an academic appeal asserting improper or failure to implement accommodation. The Executive Director of Disability Services will perform an investigation and submit a written recommendation for the Chief Academic Officer and/or the Academic Appeals Committee to consider.