According to the bylaws of the university, the “…functions of the University Faculty shall be to consider questions of educational policy which concern more than one college, school or separate academic unit, or are general in nature…”

Responsibility of: Committee on Educational Policy. The committee considers matters of general educational policy relating to instruction that concern more than one college, school or separate academic unit, including, but not limited to grades and grading policies, preliminary and final examination policies, the academic calendar, and the class schedule and hours of instruction. It reports to the Faculty Senate.

December 11, 1996, Records, pp. 7793-7796S
February 12, 1997, Records, pp. 7799-7800S
April 12, 2006, Records, pp. 10505-10510S, Appendices 6-7
September 13, 2006, Records, pp. 10592-10596S, Appendix 4
March 14, 2007, Records, pp. 10729-10734S, Appendices 3 & 4

At the December 1996 meeting, the Educational Policy Committee presented a resolution amending the Code of Academic Integrity centering on a student’s right to appeal a decision of the Academic Integrity Hearing Board. Due to the fact that a quorum was not present, the resolution was postponed until the next meeting.

At the February 1997 meeting, the resolution was adopted without discussion as follows:

WHEREAS, maintaining the highest standards of Academic Integrity is among the primary responsibilities of the University Faculty, and

WHEREAS, proper maintenance of these standards requires that they be explicit and clear to faculty, students, and administration,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Committee on Educational Policy recommends that the following three proposals be approved by the Senate and amended in the Code of Academic Integrity.
Proposal #1

Add the following to II.C.4 The Board may act in one or more of the following ways:

c. The dean of the student’s college shall be notified of the decision of the college Hearing Board within 7 days. Unless an appeal is filed under the guidelines established below, the dean of the student’s college shall ensure that the decision of the Hearing Board is carried out and shall notify all parties of the implementation and the decision.

Proposal #2

Completely replace the current II.C.5 with the following:

5. **Review of Decision.** The student may appeal a decision of the Hearing Board. The appeal must be directed to the dean of the student’s college, in writing, and shall be constructed according to one or both of the guidelines established below. The appeal shall normally be submitted within 4 weeks of notification of the Board’s decision, but exceptions to this deadline may be granted by the dean on showing of good cause. If the Board’s decision involves students from more than one college, the deans involved shall consult with each other.

a. Appeal of a finding of guilt. A student who has received a finding of guilt from the Board, or whose finding of guilt in a Primary Hearing was upheld by the Board, may appeal on one or both of the following grounds:

i. Additional evidence which might have affected the outcome of the hearing became available following the hearing.

ii. A violation of the procedure by the Hearing Board that might have prejudiced the outcome of the hearing.

The dean may deny the appeal or send the case back to the Hearing Board for reconsideration.

b. Appeal of a penalty. The student may appeal the findings of the Hearing Board regarding penalties. The appeal shall specify the reasons why the student believes the penalty is inappropriate. After consultation with the Hearing Board, the dean may take one of the following actions.

i. If a grade penalty has been exacted (II.C.4.b.i-iii), the dean may recommend to the faculty member that the grade penalty be reduced.
ii. If another penalty has been exacted (II.C.4.b.iv-viii), the dean may modify or decline to carry out the recommended penalty.

In all but the most unusual circumstances, it is the expectation that the findings and recommendations of the Hearing Board will be upheld by the dean. The dean’s decision cannot be appealed.

Proposal #3

Completely replace the current II.C.8 with the following:

8. **Records of Action.** If a student is found guilty, a record of the outcome of the case and the nature of the violation shall be kept by the Hearing Board, and copies shall be sent to the record keeper in the student’s college, if different from the College in which the violation occurred. The record keeper shall disclose this record to the Hearing Boards concerning other charges against the same student, to deans or associate deans of colleges in furtherance of legitimate educational interests, to the Registrar for notation on the transcript when provided by the decision of the Hearing Board and the dean, but to no one else unless specifically directed by the student.

If the student is found not guilty by the Hearing Board, all records of the case, including the report of the Primary Hearing, shall be expunged from the files of the record keeper.

In April 2006, Professor Ann Lemley, Textiles and Apparel, and Chair, Educational Policy Committee, introduced a resolution on academic misconduct as contained in the Code of Academic Integrity:

WHEREAS, a student found guilty of academic misconduct can currently drop the course in which the misconduct occurred and suffer no consequences,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following be added to the Cornell University Code of Academic Integrity, Section II, B. 4 c., “A student who is found guilty of academic misconduct in an official University hearing may not drop the course in which the transgression took place.”

Discussion ensued and a non-substantive change was proposed and adopted.
Further discussion on the revised motion resulted in an adopted resolution as follows:

[Special note: motion revised to correct wording, 9/13/06 Senate meeting.]

WHEREAS, a student found guilty of academic misconduct can currently drop the course in which the misconduct occurred and suffer no consequences,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following be added to the Cornell University Code of Academic Integrity, Section II, B. 4 c., “A student who is found guilty of academic integrity or of academic misconduct in an official University hearing may not drop the course in which the transgression took place.”

In September 2006, Professor David Delchamps, Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Chair, Educational Policy Committee, said this resolution was to correct an error in terminology in a previous resolution adopted in April 2006. That resolution referred to “academic misconduct” when in fact, the Committee meant to cover “academic integrity.”

This current resolution also adds stronger language to include “without the consent of the instructor” and “unless the student has subsequently been cleared of the charge.”

Following discussion, the resolution was adopted as follows:

WHEREAS, a student charged with violating the Code of Academic Integrity can currently drop the course in which the alleged infraction occurred and suffer no consequences,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following be added to the Cornell University Code of Academic Integrity as Section II.B.4g. “A student charged with violating the Code of Academic Integrity in a course may not drop that course without the consent of the instructor unless the student has subsequently been cleared of the charges.”

At the March 2007 meeting, Professor Delchamps, on behalf of the Educational Policy Committee, presented a resolution to amend the Code.

The current Code of Academic Integrity stipulates that an Academic Integrity Hearing Board or college dean may recommend an adjustment, generally a reduction, in a grade penalty imposed on a student by a faculty member for a violation of the Code. The proposed new wording would make any such recommendation binding.

Whereas, the Educational Policy Committee has reviewed the Code of Academic Integrity, and
Whereas, the EPC proposes modification of the current Code,

Therefore, be it resolved that Sections II.C 4-8 be amended as follows:

Replace Section II.C.4a. and b. with

4. The Board may either

   a. Find the student innocent of the charge, or
   b. Find the student guilty of the charge and act in one or more of the following ways:

      i. Affirm the faculty member’s decision

      ii. Direct the faculty member to change the penalty given. Examples of possible penalties are to: record a failing grade in the course, record a failing grade in some portion of the course, and reduce the final grade of the student one level (e.g. from B to B-, or C- to D)

      iii. Recommend to the dean of the student’s college that the student be placed on probation (or the college’s equivalent)

      iv. Recommend to the dean of the student’s college that the student be suspended from the University for a period of time

      v. Recommend to the dean of the student’s college that the words “declared guilty of violation of the Code of Academic Integrity” be recorded on the student’s transcript. The Hearing Board may set a date after which the student may petition the Board to have these words deleted from the transcript.

      vi. Recommend to the dean of the student’s college that the student be expelled from the University.

      vii. Recommend to the dean of the student’s college any other suitable action, including counseling, community service, or reprimand

Renumber existing item II.C.4c. as item II.C.5.

Renumber existing items II.C.5-8 to II.C.6-9.

Replace current II.C.5b. i and ii with:
i. If a grade penalty has been exacted (II.C.4b. i-ii), the dean may direct the faculty member to reduce the grade penalty.

ii. If another penalty has been exacted (II.C.4b. iii-vi), the dean may modify or decline to carry out the recommended penalty.

Following discussion, the resolution to amend the Code was defeated.