

Dear Dean Yatrakis and Members of the Faculty,

I would like to call your attention to an issue of great importance to the student body: the delay in the reporting of student grades. The majority of faculty once again submitted their grades promptly. This speedy action is greatly appreciated by the student body.

Some grades, however, were submitted considerably late. Indeed, some students are still waiting for final grades. The necessity of timely grade submissions might at first seem only essential to satisfy the curiosity of eager students who understandably want to see their assessment. However, the need for prompt grade reporting is actually much more crucial.

Over the past four weeks, the CCSC has fielded literally hundreds of queries from students regarding the status of their grades. As many of these letters point out, students often need to submit completed transcripts to graduate schools, financial aid programs, summer internship programs, and the like. Without all grades reported, students must wait to submit these transcripts. Students already stressed with the burdens associated with these programs and applications are forced to further worry that their late submissions might in some way compromise the decisions from these various programs. Sample comments from the student body include the following:

“I still have not received a grade. I would normally not be concerned, but this year I need to send out an updated transcript to graduate schools - a situation I imagine many seniors to be in.”

“I noted that this delay is seriously impacting my ability to finish up my last few applications for law school: Applications are very expensive (total fees are about \$90 each) and I need to know my final gpa in order to determine the last few schools that I should apply in order to ensure that I get in somewhere this year. Furthermore, app's are due very soon and they are on rolling admission. I sent a letter of complaint last year saying that while the inconvenience as a junior was rather infuriating, that at least I knew then that it wasn't going to impact on anything really important. Well, now I am a senior, and it is seriously affecting my ability apply to law school.”

“Normally, I wouldn't really care, but I am going to med school next year, and I need a completed transcript to send to the schools I am applying to asap.”

“I need to send my transcript ASAP (by friday) for a job application with a strict deadline.”

“I was wondering if I could find out my grades sometime soon? My parents are really hitting the roof. They think that I'm hiding my grades from them.”

Students also greatly appreciate the time members of the faculty spend grading final papers and exams. Indeed, most students would prefer to see the faculty spend more time

rather than less on their final assessment. Striking a balance, however, between the timeliness of grade submissions and the time spent on assessing students final work must be reached in order not to compromise a whole host of student concerns. To that end, on behalf of the CCSC, I ask that the faculty submit their grades in a more timely manner in future semesters.

Sincerely,

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Columbia College Class of 2003
CCSC Academic Affairs Rep.

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