For the 2010–2011 academic year, Mark Cronin-Golomb was chair and Lee Edelman was ombudsperson of the Grievance Panel.

The panel reviewed one potential grievance at a meeting on September 27. The result of the meeting was that the panel deemed the grievance to be outside its purview.

The bulk of the work of the panel was to respond to a request by the administration to bring the grievance procedures into line with federal and state law with respect to grievances involving discrimination and grievances involving academic misconduct.

This project was carried over from the 2009–2010 academic year, when the panel took this revision opportunity to bring the procedures up to date in other respects including a streamlining of the process. The main changes involved referral of discrimination grievances to the Office of Equal Opportunity, and referral of academic misconduct issues to the Office of the Vice Provost.

Over the course of the last two years the Grievance Panel worked in collaboration with University Counsel to formulate language that would be in the best interests of the administration and faculty of the university. It was determined that a vote of the faculty would be required to amend the procedures since the bylaws of the Faculty of Arts, Sciences, and Engineering (AS&E) state, “The composition and procedures of the Formal Hearing Boards shall be in accordance with Formal Hearing Procedures adopted by the Faculty.” The Grievance Panel is grateful to the members of the Executive Committee for providing an independent sounding board for the proposed changes and for indicating how the proposed changes might be received at full meetings of A&S&E.

The proposed changes were discussed at the following meetings of A&S&E.

- November 3, 2010 (introduction)
- December 8, 2010 (discussion)
- March 30, 2011 (discussion preceding vote)
- April 27, 2011 (vote)

The corresponding meeting announcements contain extensive documentation of changes and their rationale. The major point of discussion concerned the handling of discrimination cases. A faculty member could be required to bring such a grievance to the Office of Equal Opportunity (Option 1), or could have the additional option of bringing the grievance to the Grievance Panel working in collaboration with the Office of Equal Opportunity (Option 2).

At the March 30 A&S&E meeting a proposal with the first option was brought to the faculty for discussion.

At the April 27 A&S&E meeting the introduction of an amendment to replace the first option by the second option resulted in additional discussion and led to the vote being tabled.
Respectfully submitted,

Mark Cronin-Golomb, biomedical engineering professor, chair
Lee Edelman, English professor, ombudsperson
Nalini Ambady, psychology professor
Cristelle Baskins, art and art history associate professor
Daniel Brown, German, Russian, and Asian languages and literatures associate professor
Ann Easterbrooks, child development professor
George Norman, economics professor
Joseph Walser, religion associate professor
David Walt, chemistry professor