

ASU Faculty Report Sides with Professor Price

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An ASU Faculty Grievance Hearing Committee has sided with Professor Jammie Price after she claimed that ASU violated due process and her academic freedom in actions it took in response to complaints students made about her classes—specifically showing a sexually graphic video.

But the committee said she “showed extremely poor judgment” in showing the film, but said it was not an “act of retaliation” involving the athletes in her class. The fallout from the report may be that the report documents preferential treatment for ASU athletes. For Price, she said yesterday that “If the chancellor accepts the report, I keep my job,” but “If he rejects the report, they start termination.” But the faculty grievance hearing committee pointed out that the way the university handled the complaints of two athletes shows direct evidence of Price’s assertion of preferential treatment, as the two athletes that complained about a T-shirt Price wore to class regarding allegations of sexual assault by athletes led to a the athletes being moved to a newly-created section of the class she was teaching. Price was placed on administrative leave with pay March 16 after complaints from four students about remarks about student-athletes and her criticism of ASU administrators. Five concerns were returned by the committee in their report, including: Appearance of undue deference to student athletes; the manner in which student interviews were solicited—not being ‘sufficiently neutral’; The lack of written complaints from the student athletes; inadequacy of the investigation into the matter, pointing to a number of shortcomings; and the ‘uneven treatment of confidentiality.’ Chancellor Kenneth Peacock has 30 days to act on the report.