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FGCU instructor suspended over grade change

By Dave Breitenstein

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An associate professor at FGCU remains on paid leave as the university investigates another complaint filed against him.

Patrick Davis was suspended Oct. 30 after education dean Marci Greene received a complaint "alleging unprofessional behavior in the classroom."

FGCU launched a separate investigation in August when professors Madelyn Isaacs and Russell Sabella approached Greene with concerns Davis had a conflict of interest and showed unprofessional behavior in changing grades of his fiancée, a student, after the semester ended.

According to a document FGCU released Tuesday, Provost Ronald Toll notified Davis his suspension would run at least through the end of fall semester. The university seized Davis' computer and froze his e-mail account, a standard procedure, and also directed him to not contact FGCU students outside his family or visit campus.

Davis e-mailed The News-Press on Tuesday, saying he could not comment in detail because of a confidentiality clause put into his suspension letter.

"However, I can say that I have faithfully and honorably served as a professor at FGCU for almost eight years," he wrote. "I am confident that I have committed no violation of University policy, procedure or State law."

Davis teaches counseling courses within the College of Education, and is a licensed mental health counselor in Florida and licensed professional counselor in Texas.