OIGS Policy Proposal 2012.3

Background:
The college currently has no policy regarding student feedback or the timely return of assignments, exams, or projects.

Proposed Policy Statement:
Faculty shall provide all students with timely and appropriate feedback regarding their performance and progress toward meeting prescribed learning outcomes on all assigned course work, projects, and examinations.

Rationale for the development of a policy requiring the timely review of student work and provision of appropriate feedback:
“Effective and high quality feedback is a key element of quality teaching” and among the most important attributes of effective feedback is providing it in a timely fashion (Rowe, 2007; Bangert-Drowns, Kulik, Kulik, & Morgan, 1991). If students either do not receive feedback, or they receive it too late to prove useful in the coursework they are engaging, we as faculty are failing in our obligation to provide a setting conducive to learning.

Guidelines for Implementation:
“Timeliness” is a necessarily vague qualitative measure and may be interpreted broadly in different settings or as applied to different types of courses or assignments. The following minimally quantitative and conservative guidelines may provide a frame of reference for some typical situations common in ESF courses:

- Short homework assignments: 1 week to 10 days
- Quizzes: up to 10 days
- Laboratory assignments: up to 2 weeks
- Major exams: up to 2 weeks
- Major projects or papers: up to 2-3 weeks
- Thesis or dissertation drafts: typically +/- 2 weeks, up to 30 days

References: