

University Senate Executive Committee
April 23, 2020

Motion passed by the University Senate via Electronic Vote – 4/27/2020
62 in favor / 1 opposed / 2 abstentions

Background:

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the switch to online teaching, the Senate recently voted electronically to modify University Senate by-law II.E.3.b, Scholastic Standing, Grades, Pass-Fail Option, to allow students to elect Pass-Fail grading for any course up until the last day of classes. The continuing crisis, and the fact that its effects are felt inequitably across the student body depending on students' ability to access resources for on-line learning and the other demands on their time have led the SEC to recommend that these rules be relaxed still further by extending the date by which the Pass-Fail election must be made beyond the deadline for final grades. Students will therefore be able to make the Pass-Fail decision with knowledge of their final letter grade in the course. Since many students will have chosen Pass-Fail without the benefit of this knowledge, provision should also be made to allow those students to reverse their decision, once they know the letter grade that has been awarded for each course.

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II.E.3.b

Proposed Modification to the Temporary By-Law Change:

For Spring semester 2020 only, the usual limitations on students for electing to take courses on a Pass-Fail basis will be suspended. Individual schools and colleges will determine which courses may count toward major and minor requirements if taken Pass-Fail. General Education courses which are taken Pass-Fail will count toward the general education requirements. The 26-credit and scholastic probation restrictions are suspended. Pass-Fail courses from the Spring 2020 Semester will not count toward the three-course limit. Students may elect Pass-Fail grading at any time up until May 15, 2020. All courses will be graded in the usual way by the instructor; and the instructor will submit a letter grade. Should students elect the Pass-Fail option, this letter grade will be translated into a P (D- or above) or will remain an F. In neither event will a course taken under the Pass-Fail option be included in the computation of the semester or cumulative grade point average, but a grade below C makes the student ineligible for Dean's List. Students should consult with their advisors before electing to complete courses on a Pass-Fail basis. Students who chose the Pass-Fail option prior to the adoption of these changes will have the option of reverting to a letter grade by notifying the Registrar by May 15, 2020.

II.E.3.b

Current Temporary By-Law Change (approved 3/18/20):

For Spring semester 2020 only, the usual limitations on students for electing to take courses on a Pass-Fail basis will be suspended. Individual schools and colleges will determine which courses may count toward major and minor requirements if taken Pass-Fail. General Education courses which

are taken Pass-Fail will count toward the general education requirements. The 26-credit and scholastic probation restrictions are suspended. Pass-Fail courses from the Spring 2020 Semester will not count toward the three-course limit. Students may elect Pass-Fail grading at any time through the last day of classes of Spring 2020. In the event that students select Pass-Fail grading, the course is graded in the usual way by the instructor; and the instructor submits a letter grade. This letter grade is translated into a P (D- or above) or remains an F. In neither event will a course taken under the Pass-Fail option be included in the computation of the semester or cumulative grade point average, but a grade below C makes the student ineligible for Dean's List. Students should consult with their advisors before electing to complete courses on a Pass-Fail basis.

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