

**Senate Executive Committee**  
**Response to USG/Academic Affairs Proposal for Pass/No Record Grading Policy**  
**April 10, 2020**

Dear Colleagues:

After much information seeking and deliberation, the Senate Executive Committee has provided the USG Academic Affairs Committee with the following response.

RE: The USG Academic Affairs Committee proposal for a mandatory Pass/No Record policy for undergraduate students in Spring 2020

After carefully considering the responses from UConn's Schools and Colleges, this semester's policies from UConn's peer and R-1 institutions, the responses from various UConn administrative units, the unanimously negative vote by the Scholastic Standards Committee, and various expressions of student opinions, the Senate Executive Committee will not present to the Senate the proposal from the USG Academic Affairs Committee for Spring 2020 mandatory Pass/No Record grading. The "mandatory" aspect of the proposal will disadvantage students who need letter grades for post-graduation education or careers as well as students who need a letter grade to improve their GPAs to get off probation or graduate. The "No Record" aspect of the proposal poses risks for students in terms of financial aid, visas for international students, and veteran's benefits. While it may be possible to mitigate these risks, we do not have sufficient time to do so in a way that will ensure that students would not be harmed by a "No Record" policy.

No policy that we have or could have approved will please or meet the needs of every student. We do believe, however, that the current option to select Pass/Fail, combined with the extension to May 1st for dropping a course and the standing option for incompletes, provides flexibility to meet the needs of all kinds of students in all kinds of situations. We also do not believe that a Pass/Fail grade in the Spring of 2020 will be regarded negatively by whomever receives and evaluates a student's transcript in the future since the date of the grades, Spring of 2020, will provide the context of Covid-19 through which that grade will be interpreted.

Should you wish to pursue this further, you may consult the University By-Laws, IX, E for special meetings.

With best wishes,  
Veronica Makowsky, Chair  
on behalf of the Senate Executive Committee