

**UNIVERSITY SENATE
SCHOLASTIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE
MARCH 1, 2021**

At its meeting on March 1, 2021, the University Senate voted to amend the By-Laws, Rules and Regulation of the University Senate as follows with deleted items in strikethrough and new language underlined.

A. Background:

Given the ongoing mental and emotional strain caused by the pandemic, many students have had to withdraw from courses during AY 20/21. Given that the “W” grade is perceived as negative by some students, employers, and graduate programs, students have asked for a new grade that would clearly indicate that the W grade was received during the COVID era. This grade would be NRC: No Record-COVID.

Since the “W” and “NRC” are both administrative grades (rather than earned grades), there is impact on accreditation, financial aid, etc. Students who have a W on their transcript for Spring 2020, Fall 2020, or Spring 2021 would be given the opportunity to choose between “W” and “NRC” for their transcript notation. Students who have already graduated will not be able to change their grade, as their transcript is frozen.

B. Current Relevant By-Laws

II.B.10. Adding or Dropping Courses

Students may drop courses before the end of the tenth day of classes without transcript notations. After the tenth day of classes and through the ninth week of the semester, a student may drop one course for any reason with permission from the student’s advisor. No student is permitted to drop a course after the ninth week of classes or to drop more than one course after the first ten days of classes unless on the recommendation of the advisor, an exception is made by the dean or designee of the school or college in which the student is enrolled. Exceptions are made only for extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control. Poor academic performance is not considered a sufficient reason for dropping a course after the ninth week. Any course dropped after the first ten days of classes will receive a ‘W’ on the transcript. Exceptions to transcript notations can be made only by the Provost or designee.

C. Proposal to Senate: Motion * **The motion passed with 45 votes in favor and 9 against**

We propose to amend the By-Laws, Rules and Regulation of the University Senate for Spring 2020, Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 as follows. By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the University of Senate II.B.10.

Students may drop courses before the end of the tenth day of classes without transcript notations. After the tenth day of classes and through the ninth week of the semester, a student may drop one course for any reason with permission from the student’s advisor. No student is permitted to drop a course after the ninth week of classes or to drop more than one course after the first ten days of classes unless on the recommendation of the advisor, an exception is made by the dean or designee of the school or college in which the student is enrolled. Exceptions are made only for extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control. Poor academic performance is not considered a sufficient reason for dropping a course after the ninth week. Any course dropped after the first ten days of classes will receive a ‘W’ on the transcript. Exceptions to transcript notations can be made only by the Provost or designee. For the semesters Spring 2020, Fall 2020, and Spring 2021, students may select a transcript notation of ‘NRC’ (No Record-COVID) to replace the ‘W.’