

REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue - why the issue is being considered:

Considering the extraordinary circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, universities across the U.S. and within UW-System have decided on completing the Spring 2020 academic semester online/remotely. This transition has required a lot of effort on behalf of faculty, staff, and students. As a result of this change, UWEC students initiated a change.org petition that has generated more than 2,100 signatures to have spring 2020 academic semesters move to “Have all UWEC classes become pass/fail grades”. Six UW-System schools have already adopted an “Alternative Grading Policy” and four UW-System schools are considering the adoption of an “Alternative Grading Policy”. University Senate Academic Policies Committee request the adoption of a “Temporary Modification of the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Grading Policy for the Spring 2020 academic semester”. A memorandum is accompanying the policy that includes other items to be considered for the development of the eform document and implementation of proposal. APC requests that the memorandum be shared with Academic Affairs, Deans & Associate Deans, Registrar’s, and others involved in this process.

Points Discussed by Committee:

1. Concerns surrounding the Change.Org petition.
2. Mandatory or Optional for students.
3. Responsibility for initiation (Faculty/IAS or students).
4. Requirement or Consultative role for Faculty Advisors and/or ARCC Advisors in decision making process.
5. Applicability to various academic/degree requirements (i.e. majors, minors, LE, accreditation, academic distinction, GPA requirements, academic standing, etc).
6. Timeline for students to decide on utilizing S/U modification policy (TBD after semester).
7. Do the drawbacks of an “Alternative Grading Policy” outweigh the benefits?
8. “Alternative Grading Policy” options (i.e. Pass/Fail, Credit/No Credit, Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory).

Pros of Recommendation:

Provide students an alternative grading policy to alleviate perceived anxiety during this unprecedented academic semester.

Cons of Recommendation:

Alternative grading policy may not provide enough accommodation for all students who are experiencing perceived anxiety during this unprecedented academic semester.

Technology/Human Resource Impact:

None

Committee Recommendation:

The committee approved the Temporary Modification of the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Grading Policy be adopted for Spring 2020 academic semester.

MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

by a vote of 7 for to 0 against on April 14, 2020 (Date)

Recommends that:

Temporary Modification of the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Grading Policy be adopted for Spring 2020 academic semester.

Implementation Date: Spring 2020 academic semester

Signed: _____
Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office