

University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire
University Senate Academic Policies Committee
Vol. 56, Meeting No. 15
Tuesday, April 7, 2020
Via Microsoft Teams

Present: *Members:* Travis DuChene, Der-Fa Lu, Bob Hooper, Marquell Johnson, Hans Kishel, Patricia Kleine, Joel Meier, Bill Miller, Vicki Samelson, Evan Weiher
Guests: Margaret Cassidy, Rodd Freitag, Marc Goulet, Mary Hoffman, Debra Jansen, Darrell Newton, Kim O’Kelly, Jean Pratt, Jill Prushiek, James Schmidt

Presiding: Chair Marquell Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of minutes from March 31, 2020

- Motion to approve the minutes of March 31, 2020, as distributed. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously (7-0-0).

2. Discussion on S/U Grading Policy Adoption

- UW System schools all different, like Madison’s version allowing students to opt-in while not forcing them to decide until after grades are submitted
- Nursing accreditation requires all courses to have a letter grade; would affect admission requirements negatively, including those going to graduate school
- If some students can’t opt-in, need to insure they have the extra support needed to succeed
- Need to determine the impact: students interested in raising their GPA, repeating of grades, academic distinction, academic standing; will the policy be mandatory or optional, does the student or faculty initiate it or is it done with advisor and instructor approval
- Keep any policy developed as simple as possible so it offers flexibility for reasons like accreditation, indicate it is temporary, determine whether it affects both undergrad and grad grades, insure students are aware of the current policy (C or above is S) and provided with enough information that they can make an informed decision
- All courses? Certain courses? Benefits need to outweigh drawbacks
- A&S: Consider all areas impacted – graduation requirements, repeats, Deans list (can’t use S/U), academic standing. For the most part, every program/discipline has the same policy/restriction as the major.
- COB: Accreditation for College and Accounting won’t be affected with a change to S/U. Haven’t heard back from HCAD. Mandatory that students understand the ramifications. Madison has a special COVID-19 P/F grading option, no overlap with existing policy, very clear that this is for one semester only and it won’t impact policies going forward, students need to be aware of impact
- Nursing: Admission requirements within the college are a concern, calculate an S as a C? Would hurt students who’d otherwise get an A/B, review with their advisor
- Policy must be written and itemize where it could potentially impact students
- Faculty advisors and not ARCC should be involved, a lot of these issues are program-specific and very detailed, the decision will have an impact on students’ careers going forward and not just their classes
- Could be more disruptive than good, UWEC needs its own spin on it, spring 2020 only but it will be a lot of work behind-the-scenes

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- Need to do something, students need to have a voice in the decision and understand the ramifications
- Communication needs to be made clear: a C or above is an S and a C- and below is a U. It's not Pass/Fail (D-). Need to understand that a U means no credit, and if it was a D- the student could get credit (versus a C- and no credit with S/U)
- Committee thoughts:
 - Hans – In favor of something but S/U very complicated, need to make things easy and need to do something for students
 - Bob – Not in favor of S/U but should do something, perhaps more flexibility with withdraws or incomplete deadlines, S/U is going to cause more problems for students, Colleges, advisors; also in agreement with Bill's comments though
 - Vicki – Supports S/U but needs to be simplified as much as possible at the University level, give students a voice in making this decision, something similar to Madison's, work with individual colleges and departments to give them the opportunity to address their issues, faculty advisors need to get the information to students so they can make an informed decision, changing withdrawals and incompletes causes issues too
 - Bill – In favor of S/U, students should have a choice and need to know that we support them, allow for students to make a choice after grades have been determined allowing them to make an informed decision on a course-by-course basis
 - Evan – In favor of a flexible, optional policy; agrees with Bill, student's choice after the grades are in, allows respect for accreditation requirements
 - Der-Fa – Opposes S/U for Nursing, unless there are special circumstances or needs/case-by-case, students should make their own decision after receiving communication from Colleges, need to be considerate of student needs
 - Marquell – Students should be able to determine after courses are over, would allow students to determine the effect on their GPA first, provide information so they are able to make an informed decision
- What does the policy look like?
 - Departments should have a say, should it be the instructor of record's decision as to whether the course is S/U?
 - Formal process (eForm?), informed decision by student is critical, would provide a record, initiated by student, could require proof the student has met with a faculty advisor or a department chair (very important for upper-level courses).
 - How is it noted on transcript, e.g. COVID-19 S or U?
 - Need to keep policy simple.
- Request that APC also draft a checklist of the principle items that will be impacted with any change, things students need to be aware of. This should also be included on the eForm. Students need to somehow sign off, stating they agree to and understand full ramifications of their decision.
- Marquell will draft a policy and distribute.

Chair Marquell Johnson adjourned the meeting at 2:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Forcier
Secretary for the Meeting