

March 19, 2020

## **EMERGENCY S/U POLICY FOR SPRING 2020 SEMESTER**

1. Each undergraduate course will be designated S/U eligible or S/U ineligible.
2. All courses will be designated S/U eligible by default, unless an exemption is granted. **In consultation with instructors, deans** may request **by Monday at noon** that a course be designated S/U ineligible. Note that all sections of a course must be either S/U eligible or S/U ineligible. A final decision about course status will be made by the provost based upon substantial justification that must accompany the request.
3. In S/U eligible courses, students may request to be graded with S/U, and the request will be automatically granted provided they submit the request between March 27 and April 10. **[The restrictions accompanying the current SU Grading policy will be lifted (students on probation, required or General Education courses, one course a semester.)]**
4. In S/U ineligible courses, students will not have the option to change grading method.
5. A student cannot petition to return to a letter grade once the S/U option is chosen.
6. S/U grades will not affect the GPA.
7. Add a note on all students' transcripts for Spring 2020 denoting "extraordinary circumstances encountered."

### **Questions:**

- What reasons should the Deans and faculty follow in exempting certain courses from the S-U option? Should online courses from the beginning of the term be eligible for S-U grading?
- How many forms will be anticipated? Can the Registrar manage the number of anticipated forms?
- Will we allow students to "pick and choose" which courses to shift to S-U grading? Under what circumstances would we allow them to do this?
- What is the most effective communication method of this process, both to students and to faculty and academic advisors?
- What can we proactively be doing to decrease the potential number of petitions?
  - For example, can we require that faculty administer a survey to students early next week to receive feedback on the revised course?
- Can we include a designation on the student's transcript indicating "extraordinary circumstances"? Should it be specific to this COVID-19 Pandemic?
- Do we suspend Deans List and Presidents Honor Roll? If not, how do we clearly communicate to students the implications of their choosing S-U grading on their eligibility for Deans List without their considering this as a major factor in making their decision?
- Furthermore, how can we clearly message to students and to academic advisors/faculty how to make informed choices concerning their choices (S-U grading, letter grading, drop with a W, or possibly Incomplete)?
- Should we extend both the S-U grade change request deadline and the drop deadline to give students more time to make an informed decision?

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- Are there any financial aid implications in moving the drop deadline to a later date?
- We will have cases in which students request S-U grading, earn an equivalent to a D or D- and thus earn a U. However, they only needed a D or D- to earn credit for the course. At the same token, students opting for S-U may earn a B or better in a course that B or better is required, and they may wish to return to letter grading. Should we allow them to?
- Will students on probation be allowed to graduate if they earn S in courses?