ACADEMIC SENATE DIVISION CHAIRS

Re: Extension of Guidance on Divisional Flexibility for Grading Options for Fall 2020

Dear Colleagues:

In March and May 2020, in response to the rapid pivot to remote learning under COVID-19, the Academic Council issued letters from the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) providing guidance to divisions around the use of the P/NP grading option during Spring and Summer 2020. Council has endorsed a new UCEP letter with guidance to divisions on the issues to keep in mind when considering whether to extend divisional flexibility for grading options to fall 2020 sessions.

I ask Senate Division chairs to forward the UCEP document to your respective Committees on Education Policy and Undergraduate Councils. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Mary Gauvain, Chair
Academic Council

Cc: UCEP Chair Potter
    Senate Directors
    Hilary Baxter, Executive Director, Academic Senate

Encl.
September 1, 2020

MARY GAUVAIN, CHAIR,
ACADEMIC COUNCIL

RE: DIVISIONAL FLEXIBILITY FOR GRADING OPTIONS DURING FALL QUARTER/SEMESTER 2020.

Dear Mary,

In March (link here) and in May (link here) 2020, UCEP provided guidance around the use of the P/NP grading option during Spring and Summer 2020, respectively, in response to the rapid pivot to remote learning that occurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Here, we offer guidance on extending P/NP flexibility to the 2020 fall quarter/semester.

As noted in both of the previous memos, the policies that govern the use of P/NP grades are almost entirely under Divisional control, with the exception of SR782, which stipulates that no more than an average of one course per term may be taken on a P/NP basis, with campuses adopting either a 25% or a 33% upper limit (details are provided in the Appendix to our May, 2020 memo). To date, no exceptions to SR782 have been requested so the upper limit on P/NP courses remains in effect, though some campuses elected not to include courses taken P/NP during spring and summer 2020 in the calculation of percentage of graded courses.

As further noted in both of the previous memos, UCEP cautions that there are potential unintended negative consequences that may result from students taking courses on a P/NP basis, which are described in further detail in our March, 2020 memo. Each Division should consider these carefully in developing their policies.

Guidance on grading of the ELWR, related to the provisions of SR 636.C, will be provided in a separate memo from UCOPE.

Sincerely,

Daniel Potter, Chair
UCEP