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*Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate
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University of California
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September 29, 2020

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Gauvain".

Mary Gauvain, Chair
Academic Council

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

Encl.



UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY (UCEP)

Daniel Potter, Chair

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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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel Potter".

Daniel Potter, Chair
UCEP