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September 24, 2021

## ACADEMIC SENATE DIVISION CHAIRS

### Re: Extension of Guidance on Divisional Flexibility for Grading Options in the 2021-22 Academic Year

Dear Colleagues:

In response to the rapid pivot to remote learning under COVID-19 during the last two academic years, the Academic Council issued several letters<sup>1, 2, 3, 4</sup> from the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) to divisions with guidance around the use of the P/NP grading option, and other issues to keep in mind when considering divisional flexibility in grading options.

At its September 2021 meeting, Council endorsed a new UCEP letter extending this guidance as divisions consider grading options for the 2021-22 academic year. 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 "Robert Horwitz".

Robert Horwitz, Chair  
Academic Council

Cc: Academic Council  
Academic Senate Directors  
Executive Director Baxter

Encl.

<sup>1</sup> [https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/\\_files/reports/mg-senate-divisions-grading-options-winter-spring-summer-2021.pdf](https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/reports/mg-senate-divisions-grading-options-winter-spring-summer-2021.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/\\_files/reports/mg-senate-divisions-grading-options-fall-2020.pdf](https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/reports/mg-senate-divisions-grading-options-fall-2020.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/\\_files/reports/kkb-senate-divisions-guidance-grading-options-summer-2020.pdf](https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/reports/kkb-senate-divisions-guidance-grading-options-summer-2020.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/\\_files/reports/kkb-senate-divisions-flexibility-grading-options-2020.pdf](https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/reports/kkb-senate-divisions-flexibility-grading-options-2020.pdf)



UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY (UCEP)

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Assembly of the Academic Senate Daniel Potter,

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June 7, 2021

**TO: Mary Gauvain, Chair, Academic Council**

**RE: Divisional flexibility for grading options for the 2021-2022 academic year**

Dear Mary,

On several occasions over the last 15 months, UCEP provided guidance around the use of the P/NP grading option in response to the use of emergency remote instruction that was required by the COVID-19 pandemic. UCEP commends all Divisions for providing flexibility in policies around this issue during this period.

As campuses plan to return to mostly to fully pre-pandemic conditions beginning in fall 2021, UCEP recognizes that grading policies will likely follow and exceptions to policy that have been allowed since spring 2020 will be discontinued. Nonetheless, UCEP urges all Divisions to remain mindful of the challenges that students have faced on multiple fronts in both their academic and personal lives throughout the pandemic. As noted in our last memo on this topic, some consequences of the pandemic, including some that we may not anticipate, are likely to persist for several years and may affect different populations differently. Thus, UCEP urges continued flexibility and leniency in grading, including P/NP policies, on a case-by-case base, even if blanket campus-wide modifications are revoked.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel Potter".

Daniel Potter, Chair

UCEP