

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING

April 8, 2020

The Pittsburg State University Faculty Senate met via CANVAS at 3:01 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 2020, with Kevin Bracker, President, presiding. The meeting was for the express purpose of discussing and voting on a proposal for implementing a policy on Pass/Fail grading for undergraduate courses at Pittsburg State University for the Spring 2020 semester.

Prior to discussion, two clarifications were provided:

- faculty would still be entering grades as they would in any other semesters and the P/F conversion would be the responsibility of the Registrar's office,
- students would need to opt-in to the P/F grading with consultation from respective programs and advisors, but were ultimately responsible for their decisions. This opt-in decision is on a class-by-class basis.

Two alternative proposals were considered in discussion.

- A/B/P/F where if a student was given an A, B, or F, that letter grade would stand. If the student was given a C or D, that grade would convert to a pass.
- A/B/C/P/F where if a student was given an A, B, C, or F, that letter grade would stand. If the student was given a D, that would convert to a pass and not impact the students GPA.

Discussion closed at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2020.

The original proposal, with the addition of a friendly amendment to add "and for progression in" to the second bullet, was approved with 30 votes in favor and 7 votes opposed.

Faculty Senate Resolution 20-01

The following policy is being recommended by Faculty Senate for the Spring 2020 semester at Pittsburg State University in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The transition to online delivery for courses that were originally intended to be taught in a traditional face-to-face environment along with personal and professional challenges to faculty and students has led us to recommend allowing students the option of choosing a modified pass/fail grading system. This policy will be in effect for all class formats including, online, hybrid, and courses that were originally offered as face-to-face courses.

WHEREAS, For all courses not already designated as Pass/Fail, instructors will report to the Registrar all final course grades following the normal ABCDF grading scale.

WHEREAS, Students will have until May 8, 2020, to request conversion of any individual course grade to a Pass/Fail. There will be no limit on the number of courses for which a student may request moving to Pass/Fail.

WHEREAS, Students who select the Pass/Fail option for a course(s), a grade of 'A', 'B', 'C' or 'D' will be recorded as 'P' and a grade of 'F' will be recorded as fail

WHEREAS, All courses, even those used to fulfill general education, major/minor or support course requirements can be selected for the Pass/Fail option.

WHEREAS, The request will be made to the Registrar's Office and the changes will be reflected on the student's permanent transcript with no notation of the original letter grade.

WHEREAS, Students should be strongly encouraged to carefully consider any request to convert a letter grade to a Pass/Fail designation. As such, it is important that students consider advice from their departments/advisors before making decisions. Potential implications may include, but are not limited to,

- The current policy for University Scholastic Honors will remain.

- Students may need certain grades in certain courses to take professional exams and for admission into and for progression in some PSU programs such as Nursing.
- Grades of Pass/Fail could affect acceptance to graduate or professional programs.
- Eligibility for professional licensures could be affected.
- Students receiving Veterans' Educational Benefits should keep in mind that the VA will not pay for repeating a course unless a higher grade is required.
- An international student who is being sponsored may want to check with the sponsor prior to selecting the Pass/Fail option to ensure there are no restrictions.
- Student-athletes are encouraged to contact the athletic compliance officer prior to selecting the Pass/Fail option.

WHEREAS, Despite the encouragement to seek advice from your department/advisor, it is the student's sole responsibility for any issues that arise from selecting the Pass/Fail designation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Pittsburg State University Faculty Senate adopt the Policy on Grading for Undergraduate Courses for the Spring 2020 Semester.

Meeting Adjourned Meeting adjourned Friday, April 10, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.


Melinda Roelfs, Recording Secretary