**Motion to provide UMW students the option of an alternative grading system for Fall 2020: Passed by the UFC on October 21, 2020**

UMW students will have the option of an alternative grading system of “CR/P-20/NC” in addition to the option of the regular grading system for the Fall 2020 semester. All students will first receive letter grades, in accordance with the regular UMW grading system and the regular timeline for final grade submissions by faculty and their entrance into the system by the Registrar’s office. After letter grades have been submitted, students will have the option of retaining the letter grade or switching to the alternative grading system for each course. Their overall GPA will then be adjusted accordingly, with a grade of CR, P-20, or NC not affecting the GPA. An exact deadline be determined by the UFC in consultation with the relevant academic and administrative offices.

**Rationale:**

1. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to create conditions of major uncertainty and risk with respect to human health and the overall quality of life in the state of Virginia, nationally, and globally. These conditions remain far removed from normalcy.
2. These conditions are presently impacting the lives of college students and their families in myriad ways.
3. The available research and advice from public health and infectious disease experts suggests that these conditions are likely to persist for the immanent and foreseeable future.
4. In acknowledgement of these conditions, other Virginia colleges and universities have elected to reinstate alternative grading systems for the Fall 2020 semester.
5. The implementation of the UMW alternative grading system of “CR/P-19/NC” in the Spring 2020 semester was necessarily rushed. As a consequence, created confusion and disruption for many students and placed undue burden on students, faculty, and multiple academic and administrative offices.
6. Allowing students to opt-in to an alternative grading system in the middle of this semester could be disruptive and further impede their focus on their coursework, and/or potentially negatively impact their level of motivation or effort.
7. The student decision-making process regarding a change from the letter grade system to an alternative grading system is multi-faceted and can have long-term consequences for the student. It can potentially impact their fulfillment of program and major requirements, the transferability of their credits earned at UMW, and their eligibility for various academic and professional pursuits after they graduate. Every student should have ample time to weigh this decision after seeing their letter grade earned, and in consultation with their academic advisor, the instructional faculty member, and other relevant parties.