

Motions on Alternative Grading for Spring 2021

Submitted by Anand Rao to the UMW University Faculty Council

Rationale: Spring 2021 will not be a typical semester. It will start later than normal, will have a compressed schedule with no spring break, and a majority of courses offered will be online. The ongoing pandemic will likely impact the lives of many of our students as they, and their families, may face serious health emergencies. There are many reasons to provide additional flexibility for students as they navigate the upcoming semester. However, some faculty are concerned that extending alternative grading through the spring could be detrimental for students if they have too many CR/P-19/NC entries on their transcripts. Should the UFC feel that offering the full alternative grading system is not warranted for Spring 2021, then these motions should be considered as they could provide students with some additional flexibility.

Motion: Alternative Grading for One Course in Spring 2021. UMW students will have the option of an alternative grading system of Credit/P-19/No Credit for *one* course during the Spring 2021 semester. Credit represents a C or higher letter grade; Pass represents a C-, D+, D; No Credit represents a failing grade. Credit or Pass can satisfy general education requirements. Departments and colleges can decide whether a student must receive credit or pass for specific major courses. 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 one course. Their overall GPA will then be adjusted accordingly, with an alternative grade not affecting the GPA. An exact deadline will be determined by relevant academic and administrative offices.

Motion: Unrecorded Withdrawal from One Course in Spring 2021. UMW students will have the option of one unrecorded course withdrawal during the Spring 2021 semester. If a student withdraws from a single course, that course withdrawal will not appear on the student's transcript. If a student withdraws from more than one course, the student will select which withdrawal will not appear on their transcript. The deadline and procedure for requesting an unrecorded withdrawal should follow the current policies and timing for course withdrawals. The implementation of the unrecorded withdrawal option will be determined and implemented by relevant academic and administrative offices.