

STUDENT POLICY COMMITTEE (SPC)

Student Policy Committee

March 10, 2021

Minutes

Present: B. Achhpal, M. Dodge, B. Farley, K. Marsland, M.E. Minichiello, M. Nizhnikov, M. Ouimet, Z. Seyal

12:15 Meeting called to order via Webex

1. Discussion and approval of revisions to the Resolution Regarding Course Incompletes for Spring 2021 Incomplete to address questions and concerns raised by Senators on March 3rd.
2. Deliberation regarding possible extension and modification of the pandemic P/F policy.
 - a. Reviewed input from:
 - Senators
 - SGA
 - Academic Advising
 - Registrar
 - Provost
 - AVP for Enrollment Management
 - Awaiting input from College Deans, Dean of Student Affairs and Academic Success Center
 - b. The committee agreed that students continue to face significant pandemic-related challenges this semester including but not limited to: personal illness/quarantine; family illness/quarantine; increased work/family responsibilities; emotional, social and academic challenges associated with social isolation; and challenges associated with online learning. Further, although students were fully aware of course modalities when they registered for Spring 2021 classes, for many students the online synchronous/asynchronous classes were their only options; thus, many students are currently in modalities that they did not choose and with which they continue to struggle.
 - c. The committee agreed that the University has implemented numerous initiatives (e.g., enhanced advising, counseling and technological support, resources through the Office of Student Affairs, etc.) but that these initiatives alone are insufficient given the ongoing impact of the pandemic.
 - d. The committee agreed that extension of the Course Withdrawal deadline and revised Incomplete policy are necessary but insufficient.
 - e. The committee agreed that there are significant concerns around further extension of the Fall 2020 P/F provisions without significant modification to address issues including but not limited to: the large number of credits that many students are accruing under P/F; the potential long-term implications (e.g. graduate school and employment competitiveness) of students accruing many Ps over several semesters; students' potentially inadequate preparation for upper level courses;

proportion of students who would have received an A or B had they not elected P/F; the potential negative impact of Ps for students on Academic Warning/Probation; students making uninformed and potentially poor decisions regarding P/F (particularly if they are not required to seek advising first); issues pertaining to equity, clarity and simplicity.

- f. The committee proposed that the “pandemic” P/F policy be extended to Spring 2021 with the following modifications:
 - o Students be limited to one P/F course
 - o Students be required to receive advisement in order to execute a P/F contract
 - o The deadline for submission of P/F contracts be the same as the Course Withdrawal deadline: May 9th
 - M. Dodge will follow-up with Graduate Counsel and Graduate School Dean’s office regarding any additional modifications necessary for graduate students.
3. Old Business to be addressed at next meeting on March 24th
 - a. Academic Misconduct Policy revision
 - b. Students’ access to course materials during Incomplete/Grade Appeal periods
 - c. Potential revisions to permanent Incomplete, Course Withdrawal and Pass/Fail policies
 - d. Access to feminine hygiene products

Meeting adjourned at 2:00

Respectfully submitted by K. Marsland