

COVIDUpdate Emails Regarding Pass/Fail

Comprehensive List 4/6/2020

Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 7:01 PM

To: COVIDUpdate <COVIDUpdate@ccsu.edu>

Subject: Student Reimbursement

Taking online classes is difficult regarding specific classes that may not be as well taught/understandable through online learning. Will students be reimbursed for classes taken during the Spring semester or will there be a pass/fail grading system in place?

Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 11:20 PM

To: COVIDUpdate <COVIDUpdate@ccsu.edu>

Subject: Grading system

Hello,

I'm currently a senior planning on applying to graduate schools this summer. Having high grades this semester is crucial for my future plans. I'm concerned because I heard that some state universities (other than CT universities) are changing their grading system to "pass or fail" system and grades won't effect students GPA. Aside from that I only took two online classes in the summer during my time as a student at CCSU and I'm a little worried about it. If grades won't be counted toward my GPA or I get low scores because of the online system, it will literally kill my chances in getting into any graduate program.

I would appreciate any information you could give in regard to this situation.

Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 8:48 PM

To: COVIDUpdate <COVIDUpdate@ccsu.edu>

Subject: Course Grading

Hello,

I have heard that some students are hoping that CCSU will switch to pass/fail grading because of everything that's going on. However, I wanted to express the opposite opinion so the administration is aware that there are students who disagree with this stance. I worked hard at the beginning of the semester and intend to continue working hard online for the remainder of the semester. I hope that my grades will reflect this. If it is decided that it is fairer to everyone to grade with pass/fail I would concede to this decision but I thought it might be helpful to send my input. Sorry that this is not strictly a question, I hope that I am not gumming up the system and slowing responses to more pertinent questions. Thank you.

Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 9:42 PM
To: COVIDUpdate <COVIDUpdate@ccsu.edu>
Subject: Idea of a pass/fail system

To whom this may concern,

While this isn't so much of a question, I wanted to voice my opinion on a topic being seen more and more.

I am unsure if the concept of a pass/fail grading system would even be considered by the university, but I want to advocate for those of us who are against implementing the idea.

Not only can it negatively impact our graduate school opportunities, it may also limit our potential for raising our GPA, especially for those in their last semester.

This email may be unnecessary, but seeing these petitions and posts made from students at multiple universities has me concerned that it may actually be considered. I hope that if this grading system change is considered by the University the feelings of students who would be opposed to it are also taken into consideration.

Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2020 8:27 PM
To: Toro, Zulma R. (President CCSU)
Subject: Very Concerned Student

Good Afternoon President Toro,

I hope you and your family are staying safe during this unprecedented time. I know you have been mentioning CSU's and our sister institutions a lot recently in your emails to our student body. Therefore, I am reaching out to ask if you will be enacting the same opportunity UConn has given their students. UConn has given their students the option to opt into a Pass/Fail system on a **class by class basis** and they have the option to **wait until the end of the semester** to choose if they want to opt into this for whatever class they choose. Will you be offering us CCSU students the same opportunity?

I am not accustomed to learning online, and I am very concerned this move to completely online is going to hurt the GPA I have worked so hard for over the past 3 years. After talking to many in our student body, I know the vast majority of your students are just as concerned.

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 12:18 PM
To: COVIDUpdate <COVIDUpdate@ccsu.edu>
Subject: Question

Hello!

I was hoping that whoever receives this email will be able to pass the message on to Dr.Toro. Many students have started signing a petition in order to request a pass/fail grading system for this semester. A lot of us are concerned about our gpas falling due to now having online classes which is not a good fit for some. For myself personally, I now have 6 online classes. This is something I never would have dreamed of doing before this coronavirus outbreak. I have attached a link to the petition below. As a hard working student, I am scared to lose the gpa I've worked so hard for in the past. Thank you for your consideration.

<http://chng.it/dBxYm7Vdnf>

Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 at 2:10 PM
To: "Toro, Zulma R. (President CCSU)" <toro@ccsu.edu>
Subject: Re: Pass or Fail Grading Please Don't

Hi again,

After reviewing UConn's guidelines for pass/fail if we were to mirror what they are currently doing I believe this would not be bad after all. Uconn is allowing students to choose whether they would like pass/fail or regular grading. This would allow students the right to choose. I can get graded regularly but someone else with different circumstances can choose pass/fail. This means everyone is happy. Please disregard my previous email. Again thank you for your time it is very much appreciated.

Thank you,

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 1:24 PM
To: Toro, Zulma R. (President CCSU) <toro@ccsu.edu>
Cc: COVIDUpdate <COVIDUpdate@ccsu.edu>
Subject: Pass or Fail Grading Please Don't

Hi,

I am a senior in mechanical engineering and this is my final semester at CCSU. I know that other colleges have started to go to pass or fail grading for this semester instead of giving out regular grades. I urge you please DO NOT do this for CCSU. For senior students like myself this is our final semester to boost our gpa, I do not have anymore semesters left to help my gpa in the future. As well I think with pass or fail this will cause a lot of students to slack off and not care about learning the material for their classes. Additionally many students take certain classes strictly to boost up their gpa these classes tend to be ones not necessarily required but that they have interest in. This would cause many student to drop those classes because they might not see them as a needed class anymore. I have worked very hard in the first half of this semester to make sure my grades are good and I really don't want that hard work to be taken away from me by going to pass or fail. I really appreciate your time and all you have continued to do for us during this time of hardship. I really appreciate the fact that you brought back our graduation instead of just canceling, this means more than you know for my family and I, so again thank you.

Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 at 2:10 PM

To: "Toro, Zulma R. (President CCSU)" <toro@ccsu.edu>

Subject: Re: Pass or Fail Grading Please Don't

Hi again,

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Date: Monday, March 23, 2020 at 5:04 PM

To: "Toro, Zulma R. (President CCSU)" <toro@ccsu.edu>

Subject: Converting classes to pass/fail

Good evening Dr. Toro,

My name is XXXXXXXX and I am a senior at ccsu. I would like to thank you for your leadership through this challenging semester. Your guidance is much appreciated and my fellow classmates share the same sentiment. I am sending this email because I was wondering if it would be possible to convert all classes this semester to a pass/fail format? As a computer science tutor at this institution; students have been expressing concern about successfully completing their semester. They have informed they are distracted and stressed out. I must say I agree with them and my concern is that the outside distractions (media, job loss, paying bills, etc.) may eventually become overwhelming for all of us. I want my fellow students to succeed just as much as you do. Converting classes to pass/fail can alleviate the stress students are having. It will make my job easier because their focus will be on understanding the content and not worried that their grades or GPA will suffer. You have inspired me to be compassionate in these uncertain times. I want all of us to succeed. Will you please consider this option?

Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 2:19 PM

To: COVIDUpdate <COVIDUpdate@ccsu.edu>

Cc: Administrative Departments <AdministrativeDepartments@ccsu.edu>; University President <President@ccsu.edu>; President's Office <PresidentsOffice@mail.ccsu.edu>

Subject: Fwd: Implementing Pass/Fail Option

Good Afternoon,

I was unsure to whom I should direct this email; and since this has been the most consistent line of communication throughout this chaos I thought it made good sense to directly email you here.

I have been discussing some concerns with my peers, the most notable being that this enormous shift to in-person learning to an all online platform is proving detrimental to our performance. While in these uncertain times, this proves to be the smartest and safest option, it is fair to consider that students choose in-person instruction for many reasons, examples being their learning style or need for structure.

Many universities are offering their students Pass/Fail options for the courses moved to an online format; I urge you to consider this for our community. UCONN has implemented this option and saw a very positive response from its student population. This is a very stressful time, impacting every family and individual differently — allowing some grace academically may help students to alleviate their stress a bit (another plus: less stress is better for the immune system!).

Thank you for taking the time to read this email, and I urge you to seriously consider this as an option in the same way many other universities have. I would love to hear your thoughts on this matter.

I hope everyone is staying safe, healthy, and socially-distanced!

Date: Saturday, March 28, 2020 at 12:56 PM

To: "Toro, Zulma R. (President CCSU)" <toro@ccsu.edu>

Subject: Good Afternoon President Toro

Good Afternoon President Toro,

First off I wanted to say I hope everything is well with you and your family!

I am emailing you with a concern I have with labs/classes online. Currently I am struggling with not only my regular classes but my labs especially. I'm used to labs being hands on (which helps me understand better) but instead I have to report on something that I didn't even do. I'm concerned for my grades especially in the chemistry aspect because I need that one on one support from a professor. The other day on my online class my professor and I were the only ones left and she was trying to communicate with how to do the calculations in the report and it was very complicated (not to mention the microphone wasn't working so we couldn't hear each other). It was difficult because we had to type everything. I am super stressed out at this point and I just don't want to fail a class solely because it has gone online because of this crisis. I wanted to ask if there is a Pass/Fail system to take place of this semester and if not how can I ensure that my GPA doesn't drop because of what is going on? Thank you so much and I hope you have a wonderful day!

Date: March 28, 2020 at 4:09:01 PM EDT
To: University President <President@ccsu.edu>
Subject: Final grades for spring semester

Good afternoon,

I've been reading in the papers and hearing about universities and colleges that are doing pass/fail grading systems for this crazy time we are in. I was hoping that CCSU would consider doing this. We've all been doing our best with the online classes but it's been very stressful for both the students and the teachers. I'm a mother of three kids all in different grades and have to home school them indefinitely. Also, trying to do some freelance work to keep money flowing into the household. It's challenging even just keeping the household running and finding the food/ toiletries we need. If we could all focus on doing our best and not stress about trying to manage an "A" to keep our GPAs up, I believe it would make life much more manageable for CCSU students (and professors.)

Would you please consider moving to a pass/fail grading system for this semester?

Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2020 3:00 PM
To: OfficeOfThePresident <OfficeOfThePresident@ccsu.edu>; Graduate Studies Mailbox <GradStudies@ccsu.edu>; COVIDUpdate <COVIDUpdate@ccsu.edu>
Subject: Pass/Fail option for classes

Hello,

I was wondering if CCSU is developing any plans to give students the option to choose a pass/fail for courses this semester. I am concerned because with everything going it has definitely added an unforeseen challenge into everyone's semester. I have been told, and read, that Southern Connecticut State University had implemented this option and have not heard anything from Central. Thank you.

Date: Sunday, March 29, 2020 at 3:07 PM

To: Marianne Fallon <fallonmar@ccsu.edu>, "Robinson, Christina (Academic Affairs)" <christinarobinson@ccsu.edu>

Subject: Student Concern

....

My name is _____ and I am a junior at CCSU. I know the amount of emails you're getting daily must be overwhelming and I apologize for adding to the chaos. However, I have to express my concerns with the way this semester is forced to continue. I understand that professors and faculty are dealing with a lot and trying their hardest, and that is appreciated. But since we have gone online my workload has doubled and we are now no longer able to have direct communication with professors unless it is through email. With professors continuing to add on more work I can't help but feel as though there hasn't been any consideration on how this is impacting students themselves.

I am a hands on/visual learner, I find this new way of teaching to be extremely difficult. Professors are posting more assignments than would be given in school and we are expected to learn the material ourselves and complete assignments on it given no more time than usual. I have tried to be understanding but as the days go on more and more assignments are being assigned and it is becoming impossible for me to keep up. Also consider that students now have to do their work from home where there are many distractions including kids, family, responsibilities, etc. We do not all have a quiet place in our home to go to focus on school. I am truly worried about my grades dropping as a result of this and I have worked too hard over the years to keep my GPA and grades up.

I feel as though I have been set up for failure, if I were good with online courses then I would have taken them but myself along with many other students struggle to learn this way. I have anxiety and depression as it is and the stress of adjusting to an entirely new way of learning material and completing work in a short amount of time without the input or guidance of a professor is only adding to the destruction of my mental health. I just ask that there are more exceptions made and flexibility/understanding within all staff as well as consideration of the amount of time it takes one to learn the material on their own and master it in order to do assignments and exams.

I am very grateful and understanding that faculty are adjusting as well but the students who are paying to be taught should be the priority in all of this and it does not feel we are.

Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 2:42 PM
To: COVIDUpdate <COVIDUpdate@ccsu.edu>
Subject: Question

Hello!

I was wondering when students will be hearing about whether or not we will have pass/fail options for this semester? As I am sure you are aware, all community colleges have done so, along with Southern and Uconn. Myself and several other students are getting worried the longer we go without hearing any word on the matter.

Thanks!

Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 9:29 PM
To: McDavid, Courtney (PresOffice) <mcdavidc@ccsu.edu>
Subject: Online Classes

Hi president Toro. I know due to the covid-19 situation, a lot of changes have been made to college for the betterment of everyone, but i know i speak for majority that online class isn't working for most of the students at ccsu because it's really hard to focus right now, and many have mentally tapped out. Many are considering withdrawing from all classes till next semester when the virus dies down hopefully but it's really hard for students right now but no one wants to fail either. We're all slacking off and a lot of distractions and disturbance everywhere. We'd really appreciate if something could be done about it.

Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 8:05 PM
To: McDavid, Courtney (PresOffice) <mcdavidc@ccsu.edu>
Subject: Academic Grading

Good Evening

My Name is _____, I am a student at the University who is currently concerned that the university will not implement a pass/fail academic grading for the rest of the academic school year. Now we all understand not only the seriousness of COVID-19 but the devastation it is causing in the present and in the incoming future. If the university were to implement the pass/fail for academic grading it would not only relieve the stress and anxiety of not only my personal shoulders but the shoulders of all students and staff. In the incoming future, a lot of us will lose a sense of what life was before this pandemic started. In this upcoming hardship, I strongly urge you to please implement the pass/fail as it would take of the deep anxiety that we will all face.

Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 2:10 AM
To: COVIDUpdate <COVIDUpdate@ccsu.edu>
Subject: Grading system

I believe that you guys are coming up with certain ideas to help us out but this university placed this instead of the pass fail system and I was wondering if ccsu considered this yet.

Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 1:21 PM
To: COVIDUpdate <COVIDUpdate@ccsu.edu>
Subject: Question

Good Afternoon,

I just wanted to know if CCSU has a pass or fail option for classes. I know some school have adapted to that but I haven't heard any news about that for us.

Date: Friday, April 3, 2020 at 2:32 PM
To: "ojakianm@ct.edu" <ojakianm@ct.edu>, COVIDUpdate <COVIDUpdate@ccsu.edu>, "Toro, Zulma R. (President CCSU)" <toro@ccsu.edu>
Subject: eLearning Amidst Pandemic

To Whom It May Concern,

Currently, I am in my Junior year at CCSU, I have maintained dean's list all three years. I have always excelled in the classroom; earlier Dr. Toro sent an email wishing to hear from the CCSU population on how eLearning has been panning out for her students. I must say this transition has been nothing but difficult. The very last thing on your students' minds is class, classwork or participation. It is beyond unfair to continue classes while this country is in a state of crisis and faces a pandemic.

This is very real and impacts the population as a whole. Students attending CCSU are immunocompromised, have other health ailments making them susceptible to this disease, parents, caregivers, essential workers, etc. Although I understand CCSU and other Universities are attempting to continue on with things as normal as possible it must be accepted this is **not** normal. There is no possible way to continue things such as class while in a **worldwide pandemic**. It is unacceptable to hold humans responsible for continuing their schoolwork when our country is panicking, worrying about family or bills, taking care of family, increased work hours, etc.

Students who were living in dorms were thrown out due to reports of COVID-19 on campus. The immediacy of this action was great, but unfortunately, it left many individuals frantic. Many of these students held their dorm as their solace and now are home in toxic environments that may even be dangerous to their mental health and physical bodies. This is an unprecedented area and I understand there is no policy on "what to do" but continuing with

eLearning is unacceptable. Personally, I am very lucky to have a stable home to come back to, but many of your students do not. Some students may not even have a place to go to yet you are requesting that they continue class? This is unreasonable. Pass/fail grades would be most beneficial to **all** CCSU students due to the **pandemic** that is occurring in **our** country. This pandemic will, in fact, impact a large percentage of the population including CCSU's community. It is irresponsible to place this extra stress on your students.

I lived on campus for two and a half years and just recently moved into an off-campus apartment this past January. My roommate is a 21-year-old immunocompromised student at CCSU. Due to being an immunocompromised post-transplant individual, doctors requested they live off-campus. So, we are both paying for an apartment that is off-campus due to safety precautions and now cannot even be in the apartment. This student needs to be in much stricter quarantine at home due to this life-threatening pandemic that is sweeping its way across the United States. In an effort to assist the overworked healthcare system during this **pandemic** they have taken on more work to assist and provide relief to other healthcare workers (this is one of **many** stories).

I know this student also sent an email to Dr. Toro when they received a response, they were only offered the choice to file an incomplete for the semester. This is an **unacceptable and inappropriate** offer to give students. This CCSU student has already had to take a semester off due to kidney failure and transplant. CCSU's action of accommodation refusal in the wake of a pandemic is **intolerable**. This CCSU student is an immunocompromised, post-transplant survivor and CCSU is asking the individual to push off their education even more due to CCSU'S inability to offer students pass/fail grades? Please wake up, I am sharing just one story, but this is the story the **majority** of what your students face. Whether it be immunocompromising, diabetes, asthma, terrible home living situations, no home to go to, increased work hours, essential workers, sick or deceased family members, the fear of getting sick themselves, depression, anxiety, etc. There is no healthy method for students to continue classes "normally" through eLearning, it just is **not** possible. And it is unacceptable for you as college administrators to not take into consideration the emotional and physical stress placed upon the 65,000 university and junior college students in the **great** state of Connecticut.

Not to mention, these professors are trained to teach in a classroom setting, not online. So now on top of all of the work I previously had to complete more assignments have been added and syllabuses have been adjusted. For example, I now have online WebEx, teams or zoom classes, discussion work, responses as well as increased assignments. These professors are inexperienced on how to run online classes and it has impacted the mental health of students across the state. Not only has excessive amounts of work been thrown at students, but we also have stress regarding employment post-pandemic, confusion over what we are doing, our families, our health, the health of our loved ones, whether we're coming back to school and even whether we're going to be able to graduate as we had previously anticipated. The pressure is immense. In the wake of a pandemic, CCSU has chosen to contribute to student's stress, depression, and anxiety rather than offer relief from it. And for this reason alone, I am beyond disappointed in my school.

I am not looking for consultation on how to ask my professors for an extended period of time to complete my assignments; because it is not just me who would be needing this. I also am not going to be taking an incomplete or withdrawing from my classes because I have spent much time and effort into planning my college career to take place within a four-year span. It will not be elongated because CCSU has decided to **not** accommodate its students and their

needs. This is an unfair ultimatum to leave your students to suffer with. I ask for some serious consideration on behalf of the student body that CCSU'S officials ponder the idea of pass/fail grades for all classes in this very painful, gut-wrenching and unprecedented time. Our lives, safety, and mental health are more important than the normalcy agenda that is being pushed by CCSU and other State Universities.

I have also attached a link that may be of interest to CCSU officials because many other professors and University officials are on this same page as well. Please, be your student's peace and help us during this very scary time, do not be the cause of **more** stress, pain, and anxiety.

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.vanityfair.com/news/2020/03/coronavirus-upending-life-grades-college-students/amp>

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Date: Friday, April 3, 2020 at 4:41 PM

To: University President <President@ccsu.edu>

Subject: Grading for the semester

Hello,

My name is _____ and I have concerns about this semester and grades.

There is a lot going on for a lot of us students right now and our grades are suffering. I know pass fail option is not ideal but I've seen other schools do an ABC grading scale. I feel we are not getting the same education that we paid for and I know we are not going to get refunded, but it is unfair to fail any of us at this point because a lot of this is beyond our control.

please consider this alternative grading measure for this time.

Attached is an example from another school

April 1, 2020

Interim Grading Policy

As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Division of Academic Affairs has modified its Grading Policy for the 2020 spring semester, ending on Friday, May 1.

Note: After Friday, May 1, the Division will continue to monitor the pandemic and respond accordingly to the interim policy.

Policy:

A mandatory A-B-C grading scale with no grading curve.

All students will be assigned either an A, B, C, with C being the lowest possible grade to attain. With this option no student would earn a grade below C. This option contains no grading curve.

Grade Determination: The final grade will be determined by calculating the sum of the total points earned for the course.

Standard Grading Scales:

A	80 - 100
B	79 - 60
C	59 - 0

Be Blessed and Safe,

Howard O. Gibson

Howard O. Gibson, Ph.D.,
Vice President for Academic Affairs

GO FORTH *inspired.*

WILEY COLLEGE | 711 WILEY AVENUE • MARSHALL, TEXAS 75670 | (903) 923-1620

Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 6:17 PM

To: COVIDUpdate <COVIDUpdate@ccsu.edu>

Subject: P/F grading system

To whom it may concern,

I just wanted to find out if CCSU and other CT colleges were considering P/F optional grades. I am concerned about my grades during this time with the stress and additional transition to online.

Thank you for your time,

Sent: Saturday, April 4, 2020 1:15 PM

To: Toro, Zulma R. (President CCSU)

Subject: pass/fail classes

Hello Mrs. President, first of all, I would like to say that I hope you and your family are safe.

I have trouble transitioning to online classes. Myself and over 3,000 other central students would like pass/fail classes to help accommodate us during this pandemic. Several other schools, like UConn have done this. Here is a link to the petition. <https://www.change.org/p/ccsu-seeking-pass-fail-grading-for-the-spring-2020-semester>

Thank you for your time,

Date: April 5, 2020 at 12:23:09 AM EDT

To: University President <President@ccsu.edu>

Subject: Pass or Fail.....?

Most colleges have enabled the pass/fail options for all classes without penalty, why are we so behind? How hard could it possibly be to enact the same in our school when it's governed by the same boards as all other?

Sent: Sunday, April 5, 2020 5:42 PM

To: Williams, Chad (Computer Science) <cwilliams@ccsu.edu>; COVIDUpdate <COVIDUpdate@ccsu.edu>

Subject: Covid Concerns

Good afternoon Dr. Williams,

I, like many others, am struggling tremendously with this switch to distance learning. I hope you can help during this time, as I truly am on the edge right now and don't know how I would cope with not graduating. I feel my entire semester going down the tubes since this switch to online learning. I was in good standing prior to this switch and now am unsure if I will pass any of my classes.

So many other schools have offered university-wide accommodations to help students during this unprecedented time. Other universities have offered policy changes such alternative grading systems, letting students choose pass/fail options, some allowing the choice AFTER seeing their grades, implementing 4.0/fail, pass/no record, A-B-C grading policy, significantly increasing the leniency in grading and deadlines or eliminating them altogether, changing university grading threshold requirements, and so on. However, it seems our school has done nothing but switch to online. I'm in online groups with many other students in our major and several of us have expressed strong concerns but I think (maybe the nature of computer science

students tending to be a bit more introverted) many students don't feel comfortable reaching out or don't know how to or what to say. Speaking from experience, I find it very hard to advocate for myself even when I'm drowning. All of my peers I have spoken to are all struggling with this switch and are scared for the future of their semester. We're collectively terrified that our school has not offered any changes in policy to help the students as many other universities have.

I am hoping you can help not only me, but also help advocate for the student population who are uncomfortable reaching out but deeply struggling behind the scenes. It seems very unfair to simply just switch to online and continue the semester, business as usual, when there are students now working in unstable households, burdened with being caretakers, overwhelmed as essential workers, and dealing with mental health struggles. etc caused by this scary, historic time. Leaving it up to the students to self advocate and beg for individual accommodations on a case by case basis while leaving the university at large running normally, even though nothing about these times are normal, will only benefit students with the most stable home lives and mental health, while directly disadvantaging those of us who do not have much control of our surrounding environment, and are dealing with turmoil in our lives mentally and physically.

Please reconsider how the university is addressing this situation. I encourage whoever has the power at our university to make these changes, reference the way other schools are supporting their university family and use their efforts to ease the strain on their students as inspiration. Even if we can not make temporary policy changes, there should be encouragement for professors to show compassion by extending deadlines, dropping lowest grades, or lightening the workload. It is so important for our school to acknowledge the severe burden these new times have put on students' ability to learn and produce work. I understand wanting to maintain academic integrity by not implementing a skewed grading policy, however, it is unfair to say students who do poorly this semester truly deserve bad grades without acknowledging all the outside forces now contributing to a student's lack of success. The student government at Lamar University (campaigning for a 4.0/fail grading policy) put it best "While it may be a point of concern whether the 4.0 is a true representation of a student's performance, it is important to note that a 3.0, 2.0, or 1.0 in these circumstances *does not* accurately reflect student performance either. Additionally, a decrease in student performance in the second half of the semester discounts the effort that students have made in the first half. A grading system that acknowledges student excellence during these extenuating circumstances would be the most equitable measure Lamar University can take. " I appreciate the support and advocacy from your office and I hope we will get some much needed leniency, especially those of us whose graduation and careers are at risk. I apologize for the long email.