

Central Connecticut State University
UNIVERSITY SENATE ACTION

Senate Motion Number FS 19.20.022B

TO: President Zulma Toro
FROM: President of the University Senate

1. The attached motion of the University Senate, dealing with: **Temporary Revisions to Academic Policies for Spring 2020**, is presented to you for your consideration.
2. This motion was adopted by the University Senate on **04/13/2020**.
3. After considering this motion, please indicate your action on this form, and return it together with the original copy to the President of the University Senate.
4. Under the By-Laws of the University Senate, Section 3.7, the following schedule of action is to be observed.

a) By **04/14/2020**, Senate action reported to the President of the University. (Within five school days of the session in which they are adopted).

b) By **04/28/2020**, the President of the University to return the motion to the President of the Senate. (Within ten school days of its receipt).

04/14/2020

Date

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ENDORSEMENT:

TO: President of the University Senate
FROM: President Zulma Toro

1. Motion Approved : _____ x _____
2. Motion Disapproved: _____ (Explanatory statement must be appended).
3. Action "is deferred": _____
4. Resolution Noted: _____
5. Other: _____

Date

President Zulma Toro

Temporary Changes to Academic Policies for Spring 2020 Semester

Approved by the Faculty Senate April 13, 2020

All actions contained within this motion are intended to be temporary and only apply to grades earned during the Spring 2020 semester. No permanent changes are being made to any academic policy, including the current Policy on Pass-Fail Option for Undergraduates which states the following:

A limited pass-fail option in courses not required for the major, minor or general education program is available at the University.

To be eligible for the pass/fail option, the student must have completed at least 34 earned hours (including transfer hours) and must be a matriculated undergraduate in good standing. Up to two (2) pass/fail courses may be selected in one semester, but no more than four (4) pass/fail courses may be selected throughout the entire undergraduate career.

If a student changes majors to a discipline in which pass/fail credit has been earned, the grade(s) earned in such a pass/fail course(s) shall be retrieved and recorded on permanent record in place of the pass/fail grade. Intent to take a course pass/fail must be filed in the Office of Registrar within the first three weeks of the semester for full semester long courses.

Note: If deemed necessary to apply this temporary policy to future semesters, the policy can be extended by a future motion to extend the temporary policy to additional semesters.

This temporary policy does NOT require ALL students to be graded on a pass/fail basis. The purpose of this temporary policy is to provide a limited option enabling individual students to select pass/fail based on their circumstances.

Students are encouraged to very carefully consider the benefits and potential consequences of selecting a pass/fail option by consulting with their adviser, their professors, and other trusted faculty. The desire of the Faculty Senate is that each student should make the best choice for the student's long-term success.

It is necessary to keep some restrictions in place. Some programs, for example, have requirements (e.g., licensing) that mandate a letter grade. Some programs require letter grades in courses that are important prerequisites for their programs.

Students should consider the possible impact(s) that placing a course(s) on pass/fail can have on their GPA. It's important to remember that an "F" will negatively impact a student's GPA, while a "P" will not improve it.

Students should keep in mind that there are other alternatives available to them if they are concerned about negative impacts to their Spring 2020 grades. One option is a grade of Incomplete, which can be awarded when circumstances beyond the students' control prevent the student from completing certain work. There is no negative impact to the students' GPA, and the full letter grade will be entered once the work is completed. Undergraduate students ordinarily have the first eight weeks of the subsequent major semester to complete the work, and graduate students have one year. These deadlines can be extended by request of the faculty. In addition, if individual students feel they were not treated fairly in the grading process, there is an established policy on [Appeals for Grade Changes](#).

Changes to Academic Policies for Spring 2020 Semester are temporarily amended to allow the following actions:

- The deadline for declaring intent to take a course pass/fail for the Spring 2020 semester must be filed in the Office of Registrar by May 10, 2020. The Office of the Registrar will make available an updated request form that students must submit by the deadline.
- Courses taken on a Pass/Fail basis during the Spring 2020 semester will not be considered when calculating a student's total number of Pass/Fail elections.
- There is no limit on the number of courses that may be placed on pass/fail for the Spring 2020 semester.
- A notation shall be placed on the transcripts for Spring 2020 semester indicating the exceptional circumstances of Pass/Fail grades earned during that semester.
- The administration shall make every effort to inform students in advance of any adverse effects that opting for Pass/Fail may have on financial aid, transfer of credits, professional accreditations, or applications for further higher education. Students electing Pass/Fail should sign a statement that they understand the risks.
- The Policy on Withdrawals is amended so that the Spring 2020 semester deadline for withdrawing from a course without instructors' permission is extended to May 10, 2020.
- The deadline for undergraduate students to complete grades of Incomplete earned during the Spring 2020 semester shall be automatically extended to the end of the Fall 2020 semester. Faculty may request extensions to that deadline as needed.

- We reaffirm that the current policy on Grade Change Appeals stands, and that all reasonable consideration shall be made concerning the significant academic changes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- For the Spring 2020 semester, an undergraduate grade of C- or higher will be recorded using a P^ notation and will have a numeric value equivalent to "C-" and shall be sufficient for all courses counted in the major or minor and general education courses, and shall fulfill the prerequisite requirement for any subsequent courses, except when a minimum grade higher than C- is required; if departments have higher requirements than C- those can be addressed by the departments on a case by case basis. For earned grades of D-, D, or D+, a notation of "P*" shall be used to indicate a low pass.
- The option of Pass/Fail will be extended to Graduate Students for the Spring 2020 semester, after consultation with and the permission of the student's Graduate Advisor or program director/coordinator. Graduate courses graded on a Pass/Fail basis will not count towards the limit of no more than 2 grades of C within the planned program. Graduate students will receive a grade of "P^" for grades of "C" or higher. A grade of P* will be awarded for letter grades of C- through D-, and F will be awarded for letter grades of F.