

## ACADEMIC POLICIES COMMITTEE

Monday, August 30, 2021  
2:30p.m. | UC Council Room

### MINUTES

**Present:** Benedict, Brewer, Couch, Franklin (Dineen), Kraver, Matchett, Pullen, Schaberl (Lightfoot),  
Vaughan, Wieben

**Absent:** Benavidez, Wood

**Guests:** Levin

#### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:31pm.

#### Approval of the Agenda

Approved without objection.

#### Approval of the May 3, 2021 meeting minutes

Approved without objection.

#### Announcements

Chair's report (Vaughan) – No Report.

#### Reports from Councils:

Graduate Council (Brewer) – We met last Thursday and discussed work carried over from last Spring:  
status of graduate faculty, format of dissertation/thesis committees, etc.

Liberal Arts Council (Wood) – No Report.

Professional Education Council (Kraver) – No Report.

Undergraduate Council (Dineen) – No Report.

Student Senate (Benavidez) – No Report.

#### Unfinished Business

#### New Business

- **Permanent S/U Grading Policy**

- The committee discussed the prospect of creating a permanent S/U grading policy and reviewed policy considerations/examples from other institutions that Couch submitted to APC last Spring.
- Considerations include:
  - Timing/deadline for S/U selection
    - where to establish the cut-off for S/U selection in a semester (e.g., by the drop deadline, by the withdrawal deadline, etc.)
  - Conditions of eligibility for S/U selection
    - whether/how to limit the types of classes eligible for S/U selection (e.g., exclude major/minor, LAC, licensure, etc.)
    - whether/how to limit the total number of credits eligible
    - what sort of application process to put in place for S/U selection (e.g., requiring advisor consultation and/or approval to take a course as S/U)
  - Differences at the UG and GR level

- suitable policy for the UG level may not be applicable at the GR level and vice versa
- S/U letter grade equivalency
  - what will be the minimum letter grade equivalent for earning “S”
  - “S+” was utilized in UNC’s emergency S/U grading option to signify grades of “C-“ or higher for the purposes of transfer within Colorado’s gtPathways.
- Rationale for implementing S/U grading
  - exploration in areas outside of a student’s program of study
  - as an option to relieve student stress/mental health issues
- Potential implications depending on policy parameters:
  - If a student takes a course as S/U to explore an area of study, then changes their major to that area of study, the course would not satisfy major requirements if major/minor courses are ineligible for S/U.
  - The level of faculty feedback/standard of grading may vary depending on whether a student is taking a course for a letter grade or S/U.
    - The timing of the deadline for S/U selection (drop deadline early in the term or withdrawal deadline later in the term) will impact faculty grading.
  - Setting an early semester deadline aligns more with the exploration rationale, while setting a later semester deadline aligns more with a relief rationale.
  - Some majors at UNC (including teacher licensure programs) have higher GPA requirements than 2.0; S/U selection would be inappropriate for courses required in such majors.
- Additional discussion:
  - A permanent S/U grading policy would fall under the broader grading policy of the University catalogs.
  - There are no negative financial aid or VA implications associated with having an S/U grading policy.
  - Some students who selected S/U grading during the pandemic later had to request the letter grade for those courses as part of the application process for other schools/programs.
- Vaughan asked the membership to take the issue back to their respective areas and ask their colleagues for input/feedback.

MOTION: Pullen – It is moved to charge UGC with creating a policy recommendation for the undergraduate level and to charge GC with creating a policy recommendation for the graduate level.

VOTE: Approved by voice vote.

#### Comments to the Good of the Order

- Matchett thanked the membership for their attendance and participation in the work of APC.

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34pm.

Angela Vaughan  
Chair

Betsy Kienitz  
Recording Secretary