

UNH Faculty Senate
MOTION # XXIV – M12
on Pass Fail for Spring Semester 2020

1. Motion Presenter: Scott Smith, on behalf of the Agenda Committee

2. Dates of Faculty Senate Discussion: 03/23/20, 03/30/20

3. Rationale: The students, faculty, and administration of UNH are experiencing unprecedented disruptions, not only to their academic work, but also in their personal lives—disruptions that are likely to get worse as the COVID-19 crisis unfolds. The university community believes that learning and teaching can be an important means of helping both students and faculty maintain some aspects of normalcy even as we all live through these extraordinary times. The Faculty Senate is operating on the understanding that both students and faculty will continue to work hard to maintain the university’s standard of excellence. At the same time, it understands that the change in instructional delivery, but more importantly the numerous “unseen” disruptions to our students’ and faculty’s lives, will certainly impact both teaching and learning in profound ways. To alleviate the burden that many of our students will be facing in the coming weeks, the Faculty Senate recommends a flexible and humane policy, and urges all departments to recognize the truly unusual circumstances that both faculty and students are facing.

4. Motion: Because of our unprecedented position, the Faculty Senate moves that:

1. Any student may opt into a P/F format for any and all Spring 2020 course(s) in progress that has (have) not ended at the time of this motion’s approval, and all such courses would follow established policy for P/F. Students have until April 28, 2020, to make this request. Procedures will be developed and communicated by the Registrar’s Office as soon as possible. Students are strongly urged to consult with their adviser(s) to ensure that minimum competencies are reached in courses requiring a grade above a D- or which have bearing on certifications and board examinations. Departments/programs shall inform students and college administrators about their policy no later than April 10, 2020, and those departments/programs that insist on higher grade minimums shall develop clear procedures for record-keeping and advising.

2. This applies only to undergraduate courses taken by undergraduates for the Spring 2020 semester.

3. The Faculty Senate recommends that departments/programs adopt as liberal a policy as possible and accept P as fulfilling major requirements whenever possible.

4. All Pass grades will count for all degree requirements, including those for Discovery, BA language requirement and WI courses, as well as major and minor courses, except for courses in academic programs that already have a minimum grade requirement and decide that they would like to maintain that requirement for the spring 2020 semester. It is incumbent on departments/programs, not the registrar, to enforce these requirements, and departments/programs are responsible for such advising for Spring 2020.

5. Any courses listed as P/F for the Spring 2020 semester will not count toward the maximum number of P/F courses a student can take toward degree fulfillment.

6. A student may also drop, penalty-free, one and only one course in which that student is currently enrolled up to April 28. The mark for that course will be “W,” not “WP” or WF” and the course will not affect a student’s GPA. Procedures will be developed and communicated by the Registrar’s Office as soon as possible. This option is not available for courses in which a student has already been assigned an F for having broken the rules of academic integrity during Spring semester 2020.

7. The Registrar’s Office shall annotate all students’ transcripts appropriately to indicate the unusual circumstances of the semester.

8. Students may not use the Pass/Fail option to repeat a course.

4. Senate action: The motion passed unanimously with 60 in favor, 2 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

5. Senate chair’s signature: _____
David Bachrach

Forwarded to the following on March 31, 2020:

President James Dean
Wayne Jones, Provost
P.T. Vasudevan, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Andy Colby, Registrar
All deans
Add department chairs