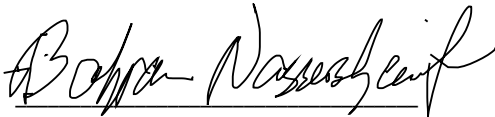


Serial Number #19-20-23

TO: President David Dooley
FROM: Bahram Nassersharif, Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached BILL titled, Recommendation of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Alternative Grading Option for the spring 2020 semester, is forwarded for your consideration.
2. This BILL was adopted by vote of the Faculty Senate on April 2, 2020.
3. After considering this bill, will you please indicate your approval or disapproval. Return the original, completing the appropriate endorsement below.
4. In accordance with Section 10, paragraph 4 of the Senate's By-Laws, this bill will become effective April 23, 2020, three weeks after Senate approval, unless: (1) specific dates for implementation are written into the bill; (2) you return it disapproved; or (3) the University Faculty petitions for a referendum.



Bahram Nassersharif
Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

April 2, 2020

ENDORSEMENT

TO: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

FROM: President of the University

- a. Approved X.
- b. Approved subject to Notice of the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees ____.
- c. Disapproved ____.



4/6/2020
(date)

Temporary Alternative Grading Option

Motion #1: Original Motion for an Alternative Grading Option (S/U*/F)

Temporarily suspend certain rules of sections [8.53.10](#) and [8.53.30](#) of the [University Manual](#), for the sole purpose of allowing individual undergraduate and graduate students, for any Spring 2020 [face-to-face, web-enhanced or blended courses](#) in which they are currently enrolled, to elect to be graded using an alternative S/U*/F grading scheme (in lieu of A, B, C, D, F), by communicating their decision to the instructor of record for the course in question no later than April 15, 2020.

Under the alternative grading scheme proposed in this motion:

- The grades of “S” and “U*” do not impact students’ grade point averages.
- A grade of “S” signifies satisfactory completion of the learning outcomes of the course in question, thus permitting students to advance to subsequent courses in different curricula for which that course is a prerequisite.
- A grade of “U*” signifies non-punitive unsatisfactory completion of learning outcomes of the course in question. Unsatisfactory work does not impact the student’s GPA. In order to advance to subsequent courses in different curricula for which the course in question is a prerequisite, the student must re-take the course.
- A grade of “F” signifies a failure to achieve learning outcomes and carries 0.00 quality point value and has a negative impact on the student’s GPA.
- Because some academic programs require specific grades (i.e., C or above) for program credit, the exact definition of “S” may vary from one course to another. Faculty must clearly communicate to students enrolled in their courses the criteria for “S” “U*” and “F” work in a given course.
- To ensure successful programmatic progression standards are maintained, accredited programs may implement a petition process in order for students to gain access to this alternative S/U*/F grading scheme.

Amended Motion #1a: Alternative Grading Option (S/S-/U*)

Temporarily suspend certain rules of sections [8.53.10](#) and [8.53.30 of the University Manual](#), for the sole purpose of allowing individual undergraduate and graduate students, for any Spring 2020 courses in which they are currently enrolled, to elect to be graded using an alternative S/S-/U* grading scheme (in lieu of A, B, C, D, F), by communicating their decision to the instructor of record for the course in question no later than April 15, 2020.

Under the alternative grading scheme proposed in this amended motion:

- The grades of “S” “S-” and “U*” do not impact students’ grade point averages.
- A grade of “S” signifies satisfactory completion of the learning outcomes of the course.
- A grade of “S-” signifies marginally satisfactory achievement of learning outcomes.
- A grade of “U*” signifies non-punitive unsatisfactory completion of learning outcomes of the course in question and no credits earned. Unsatisfactory work does not impact the student’s GPA. In order to advance to subsequent courses in different curricula for which the course in question is a prerequisite, the student must re-take the course.
- To ensure successful programmatic progression standards are maintained, accredited programs may implement a petition process in order for students to gain access to this alternative S/S-/U* grading scheme.
- Equivalencies between the traditional grading system and this alternative grading scheme:

A = S
A- = S
B+ = S
B = S

B- = S
C+ = S
C = S
C- = S

D+ = S-
D = S-
F = U*

Amended Motion #1b: Clarification of session for Accelerated Online Programs

Temporarily suspend certain rules of [sections 8.53.10 and 8.53.30 of the University Manual](#), for the sole purpose of allowing individual undergraduate and graduate students, for any Spring 2020 courses [or Spring 2020 Session 2 courses of an accelerated online program](#) in which they are currently enrolled, to elect to be graded using an alternative S/S-/U* grading scheme (in lieu of A, B, C, D, F), by communicating their decision to the instructor of record for the course in question no later than April 15, 2020.

Under the alternative grading scheme proposed in this amended motion:

- The grades of “S” “S-” and “U*” do not impact students’ grade point averages.
- A grade of “S” signifies satisfactory completion of the learning outcomes of the course.
- A grade of “S-” signifies marginally satisfactory achievement of learning outcomes.
- A grade of “U*” signifies non-punitive unsatisfactory completion of learning outcomes of the course in question and no credits earned. Unsatisfactory work does not impact the student’s GPA. In order to advance to subsequent courses in different curricula for which the course in question is a prerequisite, the student must re-take the course.
- To ensure successful programmatic progression standards are maintained, accredited programs may implement a petition process in order for students to gain access to this alternative S/S-/U* grading scheme.
- Equivalencies between the traditional grading system and this alternative grading scheme:

A = S

A- = S

B+ = S

B = S

B- = S

C+ = S

C = S

C- = S

D+ = S-

D = S-

F = U*

Request to Divide Amended Motion #1b

There is a request that Amended Motion #1 be divided into three motions:

Amended Motion 1b.1:

Temporarily suspend certain rules of sections 8.53.10 and 8.53.30 of the University Manual, for the sole purpose of allowing individual undergraduate and graduate students, for any Spring 2020 courses in which they are currently enrolled, to elect to be graded using an alternative grading scheme.

To ensure successful programmatic progression standards are maintained, accredited programs may implement a petition process in order for students to gain access to any alternative grading scheme.

RESULTS: Motion was approved 53 approve, 1 oppose, and 2 abstain

Amended Motion 1b.2:

The alternative grade scheme will consist of S/S-/U* grading scheme (in lieu of A, B, C, D, F). The terms S, S-, and U* are described as follows:

- a) The grades of S, S-, and U* do not impact students' grade point averages.
- b) A grade of "S" signifies satisfactory completion of the learning outcomes of the course.
- c) A grade of "S-" signifies marginally satisfactory achievement of learning outcomes.
- d) A grade of "U*" signifies non-punitive unsatisfactory completion of learning outcomes of the course in question and no credits earned. In order to advance to subsequent courses in different curricula for which the course in question is a prerequisite, the student must re-take the course.

Equivalency between the traditional grading system and this alternative grading scheme will be:

| | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| A = S | B+ = S | C+ = S | D+ = S- | F = U* |
| A- = S | B = S | C = S | D = S- | |
| | B- = S | C- = S | | |

RESULTS: Motion was approved 43 approve, 5 oppose, and 1 abstain

Amended Motion 1b.3:

Students will communicate their course-by-course opt-in intent through a web-based form directly to Enrollment Services. Course instructors will submit traditional letter grades for students through the usual e-campus grade roster process. For students who opt for the alternative grading scheme, Enrollment Services will translate the letter grade to the S/S-/U* equivalent.

Students will communicate their opt-in intent no later than ~~April 15, 2020~~. May 15, 2020

RESULTS: Motion was approved 39 approve, 2 oppose, and 2 abstain

Amended Motion 1b.3.1: Extend deadline to ~~April 28, 2020~~ May 14, 2020 May 15, 2020

RESULTS: Motion was approved 43 approve, 5 oppose, and 1 abstain