

SREC Minutes 06/08/18

Present: R. Brown, R. Grossman, D. Jones, J. Mazur, K. Tagavi, C. Wood.
Recorder: J. Mazur

ITEM #4: Interpretation asked by Registrar about GPS display of student status as pass/fail.

Davy provided an email request from the registrar Kim Taylor in email dated 4/19/18 as follows (Davy had forwarded the email for informal review on 4/20/18 to SREC members):

From: Taylor, Kimberly
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 5:34:05 PM
To: Jones, Davy
Cc: Brothers, Sheila; McCormick, Katherine; Shanks, Mike
Subject: FW: GPS and Courses Taken on a Pass/Fail Basis

Dr. Jones,

Please see the information below. I've discussed this with Katherine and she suggested I reach out to you for some guidance. As you can see, we have an enhancement request for GPS that I would like to move forward with, but require some direction, based on Senate Rule 5.1.4. Senate Rule 5.1.4 is under section 5.1 GRADING SYSTEMS, 5.1.1 GENERAL GRADING SYSTEM, so it's possible that this University Senate Rule is specific to the actual grading process/grade entry.

Can the SREC weigh in on this?

*Thanks.
Kim*

Currently, we have a request prioritized on the list of enhancements for GPS that was received via the GPS Course Flags Feedback. The request is to update the academic work section in GPS to display whether the course is normal grade type or pass/fail. The request is to have pass/fail grades listed and sorted on the Course Flags menu in two ways: courses taught only for pass/fail grade and letter graded courses elected (by student) to be completed pass/fail. The issue with this enhancement request (that would benefit advisors) is that it conflicts with University Senate rule 5.1.4., highlighted below. This enhancement would display the student option in degree audit, prior to the student completing the course.

Additional information on the SR is below”

COURSES TAKEN ON A PASS/FAIL BASIS

Undergraduate students above the freshman level and not on academic probation may select a maximum of four (4) elective courses, with certain restrictions, to be taken on a Pass/Fail basis. Students in the Honors Program above the freshman level may, with advance written approval of the Director of the Honors Program, select additional elective courses to be taken on a

Pass/Fail basis. Credit hours successfully completed under this option shall count toward graduation but shall not be used in calculating GPA.

Courses taken on a Pass/Fail basis (including transfer courses) shall be limited to those considered as elective in the student's program and such other courses or types of courses as might be specifically approved by the Senate Council for a college or department. Prerequisites for such courses may be waived with the consent of the Instructor of Record. Students are expected to participate fully in these courses and to take all examinations. Any student may change his or her grading option (pass/fail to letter grade or letter grade to pass/fail; credit to audit or audit to credit) within three (3) weeks from the beginning of classes in the fall or spring semester (or a proportionate amount of time in the summer term/session or other courses of less than a full semester's duration). After such time, a student may not change his or her grading option without the express approval of the student's academic dean or the dean's designee. The waiver and the rationale for the waiver must be documented in the student's record in the college. [US: 12/11/2000]

Courses offered only on Pass/Fail shall not be included in the maximum number of elective courses which a student may take under these provisions. (See SR 5.2.1.2.B.6 for procedures on Pass/Fail available under that option.)

The Instructor of record shall not be notified by the Office of the University Registrar or by any other office of the University of those students who are taking the course Pass/Fail. The Instructor of Record shall submit a regular letter grade to the Registrar's Office which will take the appropriate action to change the grade into Pass/Fail grading track for records. Neither a grade of P nor a grade of F shall be taken into consideration in calculating a student's GPA, except as provided in SR 5.1.2.1. [US: 9/13/76]

Giving a P/F credit for AP tests and for CLEP tests does not mean that students may elect to take a required course for P/F. If the student elects to take the course he or she must get a letter grade to satisfy the USP requirements.

Mr. Mike Shank, representing the Registrar, attended the SREC meeting.

* **Interpretation:** After discussion, the SREC interpreted that this proposal if implemented would be a violation of the current SR 5.4.1

Motion: Grossman moved/Brown seconded. SREC recommends to the University Senate, through the Senate Council, that the Senate Rule be modified with a proviso that an Instructor who is also a student's Designated Academic Advisor will have access to a student's P/F status in a course.

The SREC noted that in the limited situation where an instructor happens also to be a student's academic advisor, that advisor ought to be able to advise a student, if for example, a student's choice to opt for a P/F option would result in a situation where the student's would NOT get the proper (or expected) credit for said course.

Example possible new language for this Senate Rule:

“The Instructor of record shall not be notified by the Office of the University Registrar or by any other office of the University of those students who are taking the course Pass/Fail. However, if an Instructor of Record is also the student’s designated academic advisor, then the Instructor of Record shall have access to a student’s Pass/Fail status in a course for the purpose of advising the student. The Instructor of Record shall submit a regular letter grade to the Registrar's Office which will take the appropriate action to change the grade into Pass/Fail grading track for records. Neither a grade of P nor a grade of F shall be taken into consideration in calculating a student's GPA, except as provided in SR 5.1.2.1. [US: 9/13/76]”