

Undergraduate Council E-Vote Summary Report – April 1, 2020

Submitted by Anthony Welch, Chair

The Undergraduate Council will conduct an electronic vote on April 1-3, 2020, to approve the minutes of a special meeting of the Academic Policy Committee held on March 31, 2020.

This e-vote will expedite some temporary adjustments to academic policy for Spring 2020 that will help undergraduates cope with the disruption caused by UTK's shift to online course delivery in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to feedback from the campus community, as well as recent legislative actions and regulatory guidance from the State of Tennessee, most of these proposals aim to refine and clarify the policy measures approved by the Faculty Senate on March 25, 2020.

Due to the urgency of these policy changes, the Undergraduate Council and the Faculty Senate Executive Council will review the proposals concurrently. FSEC approval of these measures will be contingent upon the outcome of the Undergraduate Council e-vote.

Academic Policy Committee (March 31): The committee presented six proposals:

- (1) For 100- to 400-level courses taken for undergraduate credit in Spring 2020, a new grade mode of S/CR/NC will be created, whereby S corresponds to a letter grade of C or above; CR is equal to C-, D+, D, or D-; and NC is equal to F.
- (2) The new S/CR/NC grade mode will replace the S/NC grade mode in Spring 2020 only. Courses currently using the A-F grade mode that allow students to elect S/NC grading will instead allow S/CR/NC grading. The new grade mode does not apply to ABC/N courses; departments may allow students in those courses to elect S/NC grading instead.
- (3) If a student is repeating a course in Spring 2020 in accordance with the lower-division grade replacement policy, and the student elects the S/CR/NC grade mode in that course, then the grade earned in the prior attempt will not count toward the student's cumulative UTK GPA.
- (4) The grade of CR will be incorporated into the current catalog policies on repeating courses.
- (5) For students who received a grade of Incomplete in Spring 2019, Mini-Term 2019, or Summer 2019, the deadline to replace the Incomplete will be extended to the end of Fall 2020. However, all Incomplete grades must still be removed before a student may graduate.
- (6) Should circumstances warrant the extension of some temporary policy changes beyond Spring 2020, the committee resolves that the leadership of the Undergraduate Council and Faculty Senate should establish a procedure to determine when and how to authorize such an extension.

NOTE: At a regularly scheduled meeting on March 31, 2020, the UG Curriculum Committee approved the creation of this new grade mode with the caveat that it only be used in unusual circumstances such as those faced during Spring 2020 and that an appropriate approval process be followed each time it is used. The Curriculum Committee recommended that this approval process should be addressed at either the UG Council or the Faculty Senate level. The Curriculum Committee's report will be presented at the next meeting of the UG Council on April 14, 2020.