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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate

DATE February 23, 2021

FROM Brian Krauth, Chair 
Senate Policy Committee on
Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries

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RE: Impact of P/CR/NC Grade System on SFU Administered Financial Aid and Awards - For
Information Only (SPCSAB 21-02)

At its February 22, 2021 meeting, the Senate Policy Committee for Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries (SPCSAB) approved that:

The undergraduate Elective Grade System (P/CR/NC) grades will not be used to calculate the cumulative grade point average for awards, scholarships, bursaries, work-study, and entrance scholarship renewals during the pilot period (Spring 2021 to Fall 2021).

The undergraduate Elective Grade System (P/CR/NC) grades of Pass (P) and Credit (CR) will satisfy the minimum number of enrolled and/or completed SFU units required for scholarship, award, work-study and bursary eligibility during the pilot period (Spring 2021 to Fall 2021).

These changes were made to clarify eligibility criteria moving forward and to avoid situations where a student's P/CR/NC choice has negative implications on student access to financial aid and awards.



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MEMO

ATTENTION: Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships, Awards & Bursaries	
FROM: Kathryn Verkerk, Registrar, pro tem & Manoj Bhakthan, Financial Aid and Awards	
RE: SFU Administered Financial Aid and Awards – Impact of P/CR/NC Grade System	
DATE March 23, 2021	TIME 10:40 AM

Motions

1. That Elective Grade System (P/CR/NC) grades will not be used to satisfy the cumulative grade point average requirements for awards, scholarships, bursaries, Work-Study, and entrance scholarship renewals during the pilot period (Spring 2021 to Fall 2021).
2. That SPCSAB recommend to Senate that the Elective Grade System (P/CR/NC) grades of Pass (P) and Credit (CR) will satisfy the minimum number of enrolled and/or completed SFU units required for scholarship, awards, Work-Study and bursary eligibility during the pilot period (Spring 2021 to Fall 2021).

Background

Additional input is required from SPCSAB in order to confirm that Pass (P) or Credit (CR) grades (from the pilot elective grade system P/CR/NC) should count towards eligibility requirements that may include a minimum number of credits enrolled and/or completed from standard grade courses.

The following information has been provided from discussions between Kathryn Verkerk, Registrar *pro tem*, Brian Krauth, Chair, SPCSAB and Colin Percival, Vice-Chair, SPCSAB who were asked for their feedback based on language from SCUS:

- Eligibility requirements for most forms of SFU administered funding by the Financial Aid and Awards are future forward and based on current enrollment:
 - Scholarships: "be enrolled in a minimum of 12 units of standard graded courses at SFU in the term of application."
 - Awards: "be enrolled in a minimum of 9 units of standard graded courses at SFU in the term of application."

- Service awards (application in March): "enrolled in a minimum of 9 units of standard graded courses at SFU in one of the following three terms: Fall 2020, Spring 2021 or Summer 2021."
 - Athletic awards: "be enrolled in a minimum of 12 units of standard graded courses at SFU in the term of application."
 - Bursaries: "be enrolled in a minimum of 9 units of standard graded courses in the term of application."
 - Work-study: "be enrolled in a minimum of 9 units of standard graded courses in the term of application."
 - Entrance scholarship new and renewals: "be enrolled in and complete a minimum of 12 SFU standard graded units."
 - Entrance bursaries and awards new and renewals: "be enrolled in and complete a minimum of 9 SFU standard graded units."
- Eligibility for the SFU Undergraduate Open scholarship is based on previous academic performance:
 - "completed at least 30 units of standard graded courses over the last three terms of enrollment in such courses."

Based on the current process, students will be able to designate a course P/CR/NC after applying for and receiving those listed funding opportunities, therefore, an exclusion of P/CR/NC credits from these requirements is challenging to enforce.

There is a shared desire to avoid situations where a student's P/CR/NC choice has negative implications on student access to financial aid and awards. In addition, during the pilot period (Spring 2021 to Fall 2021) SPCSAB wants to demonstrate compassion to our students who face challenges due to the pandemic.

Given the challenge of excluding P/CR/NC from the minimum credit requirements and compassionate reasons, the recommendation is to not exclude them.

Finally, this does not require a change in language but an agreement by SPCSAB to interpret the existing language in this manner.