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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Senate	DATE	January 11, 2021
FROM	Wade Parkhouse, Chair Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS)	PAGES	1/4
RE:	Pilot Undergraduate Grading Scheme Spring, Summer, and Fall 2021 terms		

Action undertaken by SCUS on January 11, 2021 via electronic voting, gives rise to the following recommendation:

Motion:

That Senate approve a pilot to implement a new, temporary undergraduate grading system of Pass/Credit/No Credit (P/CR/NC) for the Spring, Summer, and Fall 2021 terms, and directs the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS) to develop an implementation plan as soon as possible.

Motion:

That Senate approve a pilot to implement a new, temporary undergraduate grading system of Pass/Credit/No Credit (P/CR/NC) for the Spring, Summer, and Fall 2021 terms, and directs the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUS) to develop an implementation plan as soon as possible.

This P/CR/NC grading scheme may be used towards a maximum of 12 units, deemed as elective(s) within a student's program, over the pilot period. Within a given term, no more than 6 units may be graded P/CR/NC for students enrolled in 9 or more units and no more than one course may be graded P/CR/NC for students enrolled in less than 9 units. Within the 12-unit maximum, individual programs may allow, on a restrictive basis, the utilization of a P/CR/NC grading system for certain program-specific requirements.

Students must choose this grading system no later than the last day of classes for the spring 2021 term. A student cannot change from a standard grade to a 'P/CR/NC' standing, or vice-versa, after the deadline to opt into the 'P/CR/NC' grading system.

Background:

It is recognized that the pandemic and remote learning environment have adversely affected students. Students have advocated for greater flexibility in grading, withdrawal and academic standing and continuance policies. Although SFU does not currently have a P/CR/NC grading system, a number of other comparator universities across Canada do (see Appendix). Initiating such a grading scheme, as a pilot, during the pandemic is seen as one of a number of important supports needed by students. It also provides an opportunity for SCUS to consider, in the longer-term, effective undergraduate grading systems.

In addition to the pilot P/CR/NC grading system for Spring 2021, the withdrawal (WD) deadline will be extended to the last day of classes.

Additional options for students:

SCUS will bring to Senate at its February meeting a proposal for:

- Creating a temporary amendment to the academic standing and continuance policy

In addition, the Registrar will work with SCUS to:

- Ease the Withdrawals under Extenuating Circumstances process for pandemic related reasons
- Add transcript notations to reference courses taken during pandemic

Students will be encouraged to seek guidance from an academic advisor in advance of making decisions about their options.

Additional information on implementation of P/CR/NC:

Credit will be awarded for 'P' and 'CR' grades and included in the number of total units earned. No credit will be awarded for 'NC' grades.

Courses taken under the 'P/CR/NC' standing will be excluded from the grade point average (GPA) calculations.

A 'P' grade will be awarded for grades of C- or higher and will fulfill the minimum grade required in a pre-requisite course and, for programs that permit it, will fulfill program-specific requirements.

A 'CR' grade will be awarded for a grade of D and will fulfill the total units required for degree completion.

An 'NC' grade will receive no credit.

Only standard letter grade courses will be used to meet the grade point average requirements for awards and scholarships, including honour roll designations and entrance scholarship renewals. P/CR/NC grades will not be used toward this requirement.

Appendix

Comparator Institution Policies

UBC - Credit/D/Fail

- No more than 6 credits per session (ie two terms), and 12 units in a degree program
- Courses must be electives
- CR for courses between 55%-100%, D 50-54%, In the case of programs or courses that define a pass as higher than 50%, only the standing of Cr and F
- Programs and courses may opt out
- Credit/D/Fail does not count towards academic performance or awards/scholarships

University of Toronto - Credit/No Credit

- No more than 2 credits per degree (ie two full year courses)
- Courses must be electives
- CR for courses with 50% grade, NC for 49% and below
- Programs/faculties have specific policies, such as Commerce and Engineering courses are ineligible

University of Calgary - Completed Requirements/D*/D+*

- Fall 2020 pandemic response
- One course only
- CR for courses with C- grade or higher
- May impact scholarship eligibility

McGill - Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U)

- No more than one course per term, and no more than 10% of total degree credits
- Courses must be electives
- S for courses with grade A through C; D, F and J grades converted to U
- Programs have specific requirements, such as Engineering courses ineligible and those with practicums (ie Nursing)
- S/U does not count towards academic performance or awards/scholarships