General Legislative Action

At its meeting on May 14, 2020, the Faculty Senate approved Class B Legislation to amend Student Governance and Policies, Chapter 110 (Grades, Honors, and Scholarship). President Ana Mari Cauce has also approved the proposed legislation. This legislation enables the campus Registrar, in consultation with the appropriate campus faculty body, to waive certain S/NS restrictions during campus-wide extraordinary circumstances and allow S/NS credits for campus-wide extraordinary circumstances deemed-quarters to meet graduation and degree requirements. The faculty was given the opportunity to submit written objections to its substantive nature, under the Faculty Code, Chapter 22, Section 22-74 Senate Procedure: Class B Actions. There were three objections to this legislation.

Class B Legislation
Student Governance and Policies
Scholastic Regulations
Chapter 110 (Grades, Honors, and Scholarship)

Background and Rationale

This legislation, reviewed by the Faculty Council on Academic Standards, amends Scholastic Regulations Chapter 110.1.A.6 (S/NS) to provide students with greater grading flexibility in the case of campus-wide extraordinary circumstances, such as the current COVID-19 health emergency.

Students have the option to register for courses on a satisfactory/non-satisfactory (S/NS) basis, but current regulations limit such courses to elective credits, and limit the number of such courses that a student may register for and count towards graduation.

The proposed section e) of the legislation provides a means by which the campus Registrar can, in consultation with appropriate faculty governance bodies, allow all S/NS credits to count toward the credits required for degrees and graduation.

Chapter 110
Grades, Honors, and Scholarship

1. The Grading System

A. System of Grades

6) S/NS

a) An undergraduate may earn up to 25 elective credits of the 180 minimum credits required for graduation on a satisfactory/non-satisfactory (S/NS) basis. Each instructor shall report numeric grades to the Registrar, who shall convert satisfactory grades (2.0 or greater) to S, and non-satisfactory grades (less than 2.0) to NS for the student’s transcript. S/NS shall not be considered in computation of the grade-point average.

b) An undergraduate student may register for up to a maximum of 20 credits under the satisfactory/non-satisfactory basis, with exceptions possible by approval of the campus Registrar.

c) Subject to the maximum credit limitation above, the student may indicate at the time of registration if she or he elects to take a course on an S/NS basis. The student can
change to and from an S/NS option through the seventh week of the quarter through electronic registration. There is no limit to the number of S/NS credits that a student can register for in a given quarter. Withdrawal from an S/NS course is subject to the same regulations as for any other course.

d) An instructor may not submit an S or NS in a course. S/NS grades shall appear on the transcript only in the event that the student is registered on an S/NS basis.

e) Under campus-wide extraordinary circumstances, the campus Registrar, in consultation with the appropriate campus faculty body, may waive the restrictions in sections (a)-(c) above so that undergraduate students may opt for S/NS grading for elective or required courses without a maximum credit limitation. S/NS grading for campus-wide extraordinary circumstances deemed-quarters will meet graduation and degree requirements. Temporary modifications to the S/NS policies will be clearly communicated to the campus community by the campus Registrar.

Approved by:
Faculty Senate
May 14, 2020