General Legislative Action

At its meeting on November 18, 2021, 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 changes the deadline to select the Satisfactory/Non-Satisfactory grading option to the last day of finals week. 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 ten objections to this legislation.

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

Background and Rationale

The Faculty Council on Academic Standards (FCAS) evaluated the current S/NS grading policy in response to interest from students, faculty and advisors to adjust the policy after experiencing Extraordinary Circumstances Quarters.

The deliberations included a survey of UW advisors and evaluation of various options for a specific deadline, taking into consideration there are many administrative processes that stem from the official posting of grades; financial aid reporting, honors accolades, graduation, satisfactory progress to name a few.

FCAS found consensus that the deadline to select the S/NS grading option should be moved to the last day of the quarter as defined by the UW academic calendar rather than the last day of the 7th week as defined by the UW academic calendar. Historically the end of the seventh week was designated as the last day to choose S/NS as grading began at the start of the eighth week, and there was a thought that students should not change grading options once grading has begun. This restriction is no longer necessary. In addition, we believe that moving the deadline to the last day of the quarter provides students with the most opportunity to make an informed choice.

This legislation makes no other changes to current S/NS policy.

Student Governance and Policies

Scholastic Regulations
Chapter 110

Scholastic Regulations Chapter 110 1.A.6

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 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 last day of the finals week each 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 through 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:
Senate Executive Committee
November 8, 2021

Approved by:
Faculty Senate
November 18, 2021