



University of Washington  
FACULTY SENATE  
Box 351271

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### General Legislative Action

At its meeting on May 19, 2016, the Faculty Senate approved Class B legislation to amend Student Governance and policies, Chapter 110: Grades, Honors, and Scholarship. President Cauce has also approved the proposed legislation. This legislation allows students a maximum of 20 credits that can be registered using the satisfactory/non-satisfactory option. 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 two objections to this legislation. A copy of the proposed changes are included with this notice.

### Background and Rationale

#### Changes to University of Washington, Student Governance and Policies – Chapter 110: Grades, Honors, and Scholarship

Currently, students at the University of Washington are allowed to register for credits under the satisfactory/non-satisfactory designation. When this option is selected, students are assigned a numeric grade by the instructor and if that grade is equal to or greater than 2.0, the Office of the University Registrar assigns an S for the course. If the grade assigned by the instructor is less than 2.0, then the Office of the University Registrar assigns an NS for the course.

Satisfactory/non-satisfactory courses are not included in the calculation of a student's cumulative GPA. Two main motivations for students to select a satisfactory/non-satisfactory option are: to explore an area outside their main focus without the pressure of receiving a numeric grade and to be able to respond to personal circumstances that hinder their ability to do their best in a course.

Recently, it has come to the attention of the Office of the University Registrar and the Faculty Council on Academic Standards (FCAS) that students are choosing to register for courses using the satisfactory/non-satisfactory option and then rarely, if ever, attending the course or completing any assignments. These students receive a non-satisfactory grade in the course, but because the course grade is not used in the calculation of the cumulative GPA, the student's academic standing is not affected. In some cases, the number of courses that students have received a non-satisfactory in exceeds 9.

Consequently, FCAS proposes that the Student Regulations be amended to include a maximum of 20 credits that can be registered using the satisfactory/non-satisfactory option. This allows for students both to be able to explore topics outside of their main area of interest and to salvage credits in the case of a difficult quarter.

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#### Chapter 110: 1.A.

#### 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.
- ~~b)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.
- e)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.