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ADDENDUM TO THE FACULTY BULLETIN

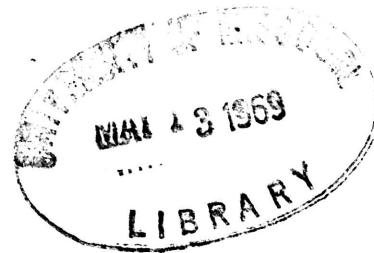
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PROPOSED CHANGES

in

UNIVERSITY FACULTY BY-LAWS



Pass-Fail Grading System

Introduction: The Faculty Council on University Policy initiated a study of a pass-fail grading system early last fall. The Faculty Council's standing Committee on Curriculum and Program Assessment and Development, Professor James W. Baldwin, jr., Chairman, submitted a report and recommendation on November 14, 1968, which was debated at that time by the Faculty Council. Thereafter on December 5, 1968, the Faculty Council heard a presentation by a representative of Student Team for Educational Progress (STEP), Mr. Kenneth W. Lobenstein, and discussed the problem with him for over an hour. Then on December 12, 1968, the Faculty Council heard a presentation by Mr. David L. Thomas, President of Missouri Student Association, and Mr. Marc D. Stine, MSA Administrative Assistant and coordinator for MSA of the pass-fail proposal, and discussed the problem with them for an hour and a half. Written suggestions were received from Miss Sylvia Johnston, President of Association of Women Students, and from other interested students. Professor Willard L. Eckhardt, Chairman of the Faculty Council, prepared a number of redrafts, and finally on January 9, 1969, the Faculty Council did approve and now recommends to the University Faculty the pass-fail system stated below.

Amendments from the Floor. Any member of the Faculty who wishes to move from the floor that the Faculty Council proposal be amended should send a copy of his proposed amendment to Dr. V. Alonzo Metcalf, Assistant to the Chancellor, 305 Jesse, several days in advance of the February 12 meeting so that Dr. Metcalf can have copies for distribution at the meeting; or the member of the Faculty should provide his own copies for distribution. This is not mandatory but is the only practical way to deal with technical material and to assure full and fair consideration.

Action Proposed. Pursuant to the recommendation of the Faculty Council on University Policy on January 9, 1969, Professor Willard L. Eckhardt, Chairman of the Faculty Council, will move that the By-Laws of the University Faculty (Columbia) be amended as indicated below, effective September 1, 1969. Explanatory comments in square brackets are for information only and are not part of the proposed revision.

That Section 1 of Article XI, Grades and Credits [at p. 8 of reprint inappropriately dated April 1, 1967], be repealed and the following be adopted in lieu thereof:

1. A) [A to F Grading System--In General] The A, B, C, D, F system of grading is used except where a different system is authorized. The Graduate School uses A, B, C, F. The grade of F carries no credit in any division.

Although no explicit definitions of the grades A through F are given, the regulations governing the qualifications for degrees carry the following implicit definitions: Students whose work in a course is considered adequate in meeting the minimum standards of a first baccalaureate degree should receive a grade of at least C. Students whose work in a course is considered to be entirely satisfactory in meeting the standards of an advanced academic degree should receive a grade of at least B.

[Substantially the same as present Sec. 1. The last sentence of the first paragraph on the School of Medicine is deleted here but is incorporated in new Subsection (G). For clarification, "(both graduate and undergraduate)" is deleted in the second paragraph.]

B) [S and U Grading System--In General] To the extent authorized by this Article, the S (Satisfactory) and U (Unsatisfactory) grading system may be used. The grade of U carries no credit in any division.

The grade of S represents the grades A, B, and C, and the grade of U represents the grades D and F.

In most cases the teacher will report grades initially on the A to F grading system even though a student has elected the S and U grading system, and the conversion from one system to the other will be made in the office of the Registrar. In appropriate cases the teacher may report grades initially as S or U. See Art. XI, Sec. 4, on grade reports.

[New. The breaking point is between C and D. S grades will not dilute the quality of the degree, but it will be easier to achieve a 4.0 average. Some student representatives wanted the breaking point between D and F. The teacher is not prohibited from knowing whether a student has elected the S and U grading system, as is done in some universities.]

C) [Satisfaction of Degree Requirements by S Grades--Divisional Faculty Action Necessary] Any degree recommending faculty may allow students to satisfy its degree requirements by authorizing students to elect the S and U grading system for any available and otherwise acceptable courses, under such conditions and restrictions as the degree recommending faculty may impose: provided, however, that in no case shall more than twenty percent (20%) of the hours taken into account in determining the satisfaction of first baccalaureate degree requirements be hours passed under the S and U grading system.

No courses taken under the S and U grading system shall be deemed to satisfy degree requirements unless and until a degree recommending faculty takes affirmative action relative thereto.

[New. The basic authority remains in each divisional faculty, and nothing is forced or imposed by the University Faculty; this is only enabling legislation. However, an overall maximum of 20% is imposed. See also Subsection (E) on restrictions. It is expected that a divisional faculty will adopt carefully worked out conditions and restrictions before permitting S grades to be used to satisfy degree requirements. A divisional faculty might provide that the A to F grading system must be used in the case of required courses, courses in the major area, etc.]

D) [What Courses Open to Election on S and U Grading System--Departmental Prerequisites] All courses shall be deemed open to election on an S and U grading system, provided the student is otherwise eligible to take the particular course. The adoption of the alternative S and U grading system is not intended to restrict in any way the authority of a department to make reasonable requirements as to eligibility to take courses, either as to satisfaction of stated prerequisites, approval after an evaluation by the teacher, priorities where all students desiring to take a certain course cannot be accommodated, or otherwise.

[New. Departments may not exclude or restrict S-U students solely because they elect to take a course on that basis, but it is made clear that prerequisites, etc., must be met.]

E) [What Students Ineligible to Elect S and U Grading System--Other General Restrictions] Beginning students (as defined in Art. XIV, Sec. 1) and students on scholastic probation (either under Art. XIV or divisional rules) are not eligible to elect the S and U grading system.

No student may elect the S and U grading system in more than one course in any semester or summer session.

The restrictions in the two paragraphs next above do not apply to courses where all students are graded on an S and U basis.

The faculty of any division may adopt additional conditions and restrictions with respect to the election of the S and U grading system by students in the division.

In the event an ineligible student erroneously elects the S and U grading system for a course, he shall be graded and his grade recorded under the A to F grading system.

[New. In the first two paragraphs three restrictions are imposed on students wishing to elect the S and U grading system. It is expected that divisional faculties will adopt additional conditions and restrictions. For example, "beginning students" in general are first semester students, but a divisional faculty may want to cover second semester students as well. See comment to Subsection (C).]

F) [S and U Grading System in Special Courses]

If a course for not more than three semester hours of credit is of a type where satisfactory and unsatisfactory academic achievement or performance can be distinguished but the assignment of meaningful A to F grades is not feasible, and if the course content is worthy of college level credit, a departmental faculty or combination of departmental faculties, with the approval of the appropriate divisional faculty or faculties, may offer the course on the basis that each student will be graded either S or U. Such credit may be used to satisfy degree requirements only as provided in Subsection (C) of this Section.

[New. Professor John M. Kuhlman's experimental one hour Freshman Assembly lecture series on the Urban Crisis comes to mind as a candidate (but there is no need to express any opinion as to whether the course meets the stated conditions precedent). It is essential that departmental and divisional faculties act responsibly and with restraint, and the Faculty Council assumes they will so act; abuses could lead to a later repeal of this subsection.]

G) [Law, Medicine, and Veterinary Medicine--
Special Provisions] Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in other Subsections of this Section, the following special provisions apply in schools or colleges offering courses leading to a post-baccalaureate first professional degree (the Schools of Law, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, and comparable schools or colleges which may be established hereafter). The faculty of any such school or college may adopt the use of the A to F grading system or the S and U grading system or a combination of the two, subject to such conditions and restrictions as the faculty may impose. Grades assigned, whether A to F or S and U, shall be in accordance with sound standards of professional schools and colleges. For the internal purposes of any such school or college the faculty of such school or college may adopt a variant of the campus grading system.

[Present Section 1 authorizes the School of Medicine to use the S and U grading system. This new subsection extends the authorization to other comparable schools, and provides more flexibility.]

H) [Warning] Limited use of the S and U grading system has been authorized because of the academic advantages the system may have in some cases, but it is not intended to suggest that in all cases or even in many cases the academic advantages will outweigh the academic disadvantages. Grades are significant not only in the satisfaction of degree requirements, but also are significant for many other internal and external purposes where an evaluation of academic achievement is made, such as intercollegiate athletics, draft deferment, academic honors, election to honorary societies, admission to graduate or professional schools, employment opportunities, change from one academic major to another, transfer from one academic division to another, transfer from one university to another, and others. A student who elects to take courses under the S and U grading system may be affected adversely in such areas, and should evaluate carefully the disadvantages as well as the advantages before making such an election.

[New. The substance of this warning should be included in the bulletin of each school or college; and student advisers should make sure that their advisees are aware of the hazards.]

That Section 2 of Article XI, Grades and Credits [at p. 8 of reprint dated April 1, 1967], be repealed and the following be adopted in lieu thereof:

2. A) [Grade Points for A to F Grades] Grade points per semester hour of credit will be assigned as follows: A--4 points per semester hour of credit; B--3 points; C--2 points; D--1 point; F--0 points.

B) [Grade Point Average, How Determined--
Courses Excluded] The grade point average for any period is obtained by dividing the total number of grade points earned by the total number of hours for which the student was enrolled during that period. Courses in which a student receives the grade of S or U, non-professional Physical Education courses, basic ROTC courses, and courses from which a student has been excused or in which the grade is "Delayed" will not be included in determining the grade point average.

[Substantially the same as present Section 2 except that the second paragraph is amended to exclude both S and U grades in determining grade point averages.]

That Section 4 of Article XI, Grades and Credits [at p. 9 of reprint dated April 1, 1967], be amended by adopting the following additional paragraph to be inserted between the two existing paragraphs in said Section:

4. [Grade Reports] * * *

Even though a student has elected the S and U grading system the teacher will report grades initially on the A to F grading system and the conversion from one system to the other will be made in the office of the Registrar. In the case of courses where all students are graded on an S and U basis the teacher will report grades initially as S or U. See Art. XI, Sec. 1 (B).

* * *

That Article XIV, Scholastic Probation, Suspension and Dismissal of Undergraduate Students [at p. 14 of reprint dated April 1, 1967], be amended by adopting the following additional section to follow existing Section 6:

6a. [U Grades--Review of Record] The record of any student who receives the grade of U in any course in any semester or summer session in which he also receives the grade of D or F in any other course shall be reviewed by the Dean or appropriate committee for action in the spirit of these rules.

[New. This section is patterned after Sec. 6 which calls for review where a student gets a D or F in a summer session. If all other grades are C or higher, a U grade will not affect a student. Even where a U grade is to be taken into account the U grade would not necessarily be treated as if it were a D or an F. ¶ The alternative of providing that a U grade has certain specific consequences is not feasible because U represents both D and F. The Faculty Council rejected the alternative that U grades be ignored completely.]