Resolutions passed March 25, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the transfer to online instruction

Resolution (1): UNDERGRADUATE PASS/FAIL OPTION

The Faculty Senate supports the following temporary suspensions of the Undergraduate Academic Rules and Regulations. Suspend Section 3.4.2, Section 3.4.3, Section 3.4.4, and Section 12.4 to allow any undergraduate student the option to choose a Pass/Fail grading option for the Spring Semester of 2020 for any course. This option would be available to students through the final day of classes, April 27, 2020 (requiring the suspension of 12.4). Suspending 3.4.2 would mean that any course taken Pass/Fail in the Spring of 2020 would not count against the four-course maximum. Suspending 3.4.3, would allow more than one course to be taken pass/fail in the Spring of 2020. Suspending 3.4.4 would allow a course taken pass/fail in the Spring of 2020 to count toward majors, minors, certificates, and university requirements, not just elective credits. Suspending Section 3.4.4 also means that the requirements for C or better in Sections 8 and 9 related to University-Wide Requirements and Major, Minor, and Dual Degree Requirements are replaced by requiring a grade of “Pass” for such classes graded Pass/Fail in the Spring Semester of 2020 only.

Resolution (2): GRADUATE PASS/FAIL OPTION

(a) The Faculty Senate supports the temporary suspension of the first half of Section 3.5 of the Academic Rules and Regulations for Graduate Students to allow any non-WCL graduate student the option to choose a Pass/Fail grading option for the Spring Semester of 2020 for any course and allowing that course to count toward the student’s program of study. The Pass/Fail option would be available to student through the final day of classes, April 27, 2020.

(b) The Faculty Senate supports permanently amending the second half of Section 3.5 of the Academic Rules and Regulations for Graduate Students to make the grade requirement for passing a Pass/Fail graduate course the same as the grade requirement for passing other graduate courses: performance of C or better. (Note: this change was planned prior to the pandemic. It is needed to fix an inconsistency: current regs define C as a passing grade in all courses except those taken P/F, where a B is needed to pass. The change makes the two definitions consistent.)

Resolution (3): TENURE-CLOCK EXTENSION FOR ELIGIBLE FACULTY

The Faculty Senate supports temporary suspension of Section 9.b.i. of the Faculty Manual to allow current tenure-track (pre-tenure) faculty whose promotion and tenure reviews are scheduled for Fall 2020 or later an additional year on the tenure clock that would not count against the maximum of 2 one-year extensions. This tenure clock extension does not apply to faculty who are currently being reviewed for promotion and tenure during AY19-20. The tenure clock extension will automatically apply so that eligible faculty do not have to submit a request for the extension. Faculty members who wish to be considered for tenure and promotion on their original schedule will not be penalized for that decision in any way. Faculty members who use this tenure clock extension will not be penalized for that decision in any way. For faculty members who are in their first or second year of the tenure track will have the additional year added before their pre-tenure review.