

SPECIAL REPORT
of the
ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL
concerning
**ACADEMIC REGULATIONS REGARDING
PASS/FAIL OPTION**

Presented at the
690th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
December 15, 2009

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

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Background

The Academic Regulations regarding the Pass/Fail Option state (in abbreviated form):

The purpose of the Pass/Fail option is to encourage students to be venturesome in the choice of their courses. Any undergraduate shall be eligible to exercise a Pass/Fail option in one course each term.

Winter and each summer session count as individual terms. Students wishing to exercise the Pass/Fail option must do so by the end of the Add/Drop period.

There are additional restrictions regarding General Education requirements, the University's writing requirements, individual majors, and School/College requirements as well.

AMC Observations

The current policy limits the time period in which a student can decide whether to seek the Pass/Fail option for a course to the current Add/Drop period of approximately two weeks at the beginning of a semester. This is a relatively short period of time for a student to understand fully the requirements of a course, understand the demands of the course for grading purposes, and to have had an opportunity for graded assessment and feedback from the instructor. The current policy does not incentivize a student to stick with a class after the Add/Drop period if they will not be able to change to a Pass/Fail option that may be more appropriate for them.

AMC Recommendations

The Academic Matters Council proposes that the time period for the Pass/Fail option be changed to allow a student to exercise the Pass/Fail option up to the Withdrawal deadline. We feel this will encourage students to experiment and stick with a class if they are allowed to exercise this option later in the semester and are armed with more information and hopefully graded assessment. The restrictions regarding General Education requirements, University writing requirements, individual majors, and School/College requirements will remain the same.

MOVED: **That the Faculty Senate approve changing the time period allowed**
19-10 **for a student to exercise the Pass/Fail Option from the end of the**
 Add/Drop period to the Mid-Semester Date (Last Day to drop with
 a "W") time period, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-018.