



Committee approved: [-----]
 Sent to ACC: [-----]
 ACC Approved: [-----]

GRADUATE FACULTY GOVERNANCE COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes of March 30, 2020

Meeting Location: via Zoom

GC Chair Sofield called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m., welcoming a total of 15 attendees (roster attached).

Meeting minutes of 2-25-20 were approved via email on 2-26-20 and sent to ACC.

ACTION ITEMS

A **motion** to accept the interim policy (attached) on graduate academic standards for Spring Quarter 2020 with necessary amendments (moved by Robert Mitchell and seconded by Kristi Lemm) **passed** by unanimous consent.

Meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

GRADUATE COUNCIL – ROSTER 2019-2020

VOTING ATTENDEES			NON-VOTING ATTENDEES	
Craig Dunn	Management (GS)	P	Ex Officio members	
Clint Spiegel	Chemistry (CSE)	--	David Patrick, <i>Interim Dean, Graduate School</i>	P
Linda Keeler	Health and Human Development (CHSS)	--	Michael Barr, <i>Associate Dean, Graduate School</i>	P
Elizabeth Boland (Vice-Chair)	Health and Community Studies (WCE)	P	Recorder	
Ruth Sofield (Chair)	Environmental Science (HCE)	P	Dayna Patterson, <i>Graduate School</i>	P
Patty Bourne	Music (CFPA)	P	Guests	
Mark Staton	Finance & Mktg (CBE)	P	Megan Spiegel, <i>Graduate School</i>	--
Gabe Gossett	Library	P		
Chris Loar	English (CHSS)	--		
Kristi Lemm	Psychology (CHSS)	P		
At Large				
Tammi Laninga	Environmental Studies	P		
Robert Mitchell	Geology	P		
Wayne Landis	Environmental Science	P		
Student members				
Jasmine Balasa, <i>GSAC</i>		P		

Preston Smith, <i>GSAC</i>	--		Voting attendees	12
Patrick Czichas, <i>AS</i>	P		Non-voting attendees	3
José Cervantes-Aguilar, <i>AS</i>	--		TOTAL ATTENDEES	15

COVID-19 Graduate Faculty Governance Council (GFGC) Interim Graduate Grading Policy for Graduate Courses

Rationale: This policy is intended to assist graduate programs in determining how to meet existing Graduate School policies during the University's COVID-19 response. The Coronavirus pandemic has led the university to shift to remote learning, a modality that is new for many faculty and students. These uncharted learning conditions, coupled with the current social and economic instability our students are currently experiencing, will create a challenging quarter. Out of an abundance of care, a final recommendation from the Graduate Faculty Governance Council (GFGC) is for faculty to consider these exogenous factors when designing courses, assignments, and other methods of assessment to ameliorate student anxiety and encourage a focus on learning.

This interim policy does not apply to 690 Thesis and 691 Field Project credits and these courses will remain A-F graded. This interim policy does not apply to S/U courses and they will remain S/U graded. This interim policy does not apply to noncredit bearing program-specific graduation requirements.

To best guide graduate programs, the existing Graduate School policies are identified, and interim policies are described if relevant. This Interim Policy was unanimously approved by the GFCC on 3/30/2020.

Scholarship Standards

Current Policy:

Pass/No Pass grades are not applicable toward a graduate degree.

Interim Policy:

This policy is waived if all other relevant policies in this document are met.

Faculty will maintain rank grading (A-F) records during the quarter, with the default reporting of grades to continue as A-F for graded courses. Students have the right to convert to a P/NP grade, rather than their letter grade, in any graduate course except those specifically excluded in this interim policy. To receive a P/NP, a student must initiate this grade change prior to the last 2 weeks of the quarter (5/22/2020). The procedure to convert to P/NP grading needs to be included in either the syllabus or within the Canvas site. Students may be advised against requesting P/NP for reasons such as program-specific requirements or if they need to increase their GPA to 3.0 for graduation in Spring 2020. Consultation with an advisor is recommended.

For the spring 2020 quarter, all grades of C- and above will receive a P if the student selects the P/NP option. If the student selects the P/NP option, a grade below C- will be recorded as an NP, which will not earn credits or be reflected in the GPA. Programs can use their discretion and choose a minimum grade higher than a C- for a P if this is communicated to students no later than 4/10/2020.

A grade of P during spring 2020 will carry credit towards curricular, major, continuation, and graduation requirements. However, students who are graduating Spring 2020 will be held to the

3.0 GPA requirement for graduation with the GPA calculated based on grades assigned prior to Spring 2020 in conjunction with any letter graded courses from Spring 2020.

Faculty have control over their curricular decisions and may elect to have different assignments required for P/NP or A-F grading, but the distinction must be made clear to students during the first week of the quarter and must allow for students to make the choice of grading options prior to the last 2 weeks of the quarter (5/22/2020).

Current Policy:

To remain a candidate for the degree, a student must maintain at least a 3.0 GPA in courses listed on the plan of study.

Interim Policy:

No change to current policy. P grades will not be calculated in the GPA.

Current Policy:

A maximum of 10 credits of C grades (C+, C, C-) is allowed towards completion of a graduate program.

Interim Policy:

No change to current policy; however, P grades will not be calculated into the maximum number of C grades allowed in current policy.

Current Policy:

Courses in which a D+ or lower is earned may not be applied towards completion of a graduate program.

Interim Policy:

No change to current policy; however, credits from a course where an NP grade was received will not be applied towards completion of a graduate program.

Current Policy:

There are certain courses that must be passed with a grade of B or better; program descriptions note such requirements.

Interim Policy:

No change to current policy; however, programs can decide to revise or waive this program-specific requirement for Spring 2020 and communicate this to students no later than 4/10/2020.

Current Policy:

An incomplete (K) grade may be assigned in accordance with the regulations outlined in the Academic Policies section of this catalog.

Interim Policy:

No change to [current policy](#).

Awarding of the Master's Degree

Current Policy:

A student must be enrolled for at least two regular credits or GRAD 699 during the quarter in which the degree is awarded.

Interim Policy:

No change to current policy.

Continuous Enrollment Policy

[Current Policy](#)

Interim Policy:

No change to current policy.

Terms of this Interim Policy

This interim policy is in effect for the entirety of Spring quarter 2020 and will be extended while a WWU P/NP Interim Grading Policy is in effect. Dates in this interim policy will be updated after the spring 2020 quarter by the GFGC Executive Committee as needed.