

Date: March 20, 2020

To: Robert Placido, Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs

From: Jeannine Diddle Uzzi, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs



Re: Pass/Fail Option Revision in Response to Coronavirus

The academic affairs team has been considering how best to serve students during this time, particularly trying to provide whatever flexibility we can offer as they transition from face-to-face instruction. We've been encouraged by the flexibility provided by the Federal Department of Education (DoE) and the New England Council for Higher Education. Consistent with what they have offered, each of those policies and procedures under our authority is being reconsidered during this time.

Specific to this report, we made the decision to extend the deadline for changing individual courses to a "Pass/Fail" grade from the initial deadline of April 8th to April 20, 2020. This extension is to give each student more time to discover how an online environment may work for them, how the course material translates to a different modality, and how other responsibilities in their life may have been impacted by the Coronavirus.

In addition, we are working with individual departments to allow Pass/Fail 'grades' to count towards their major requirements, as well as admission criteria. Every department that has considered their approach, so far, has chosen to allow Pass/Fail grades to count. We expect each department to have made its decision before March 25th. We are also allowing flexibility where we can offer it, in regards to the Grade Point Average (GPA) calculations, Dean's List, and Honor's eligibility.

Where we don't have authority, we are actively looking for guidance. Specifically, we do not know how the NCAA, the DoE, and licensing agencies will treat Pass/Fail 'grades' for their own purposes. Hopefully we, and our students, will get some guidance and clarity from each soon.

As an addendum, I would also note that we are extending the deadline for withdrawing from a class from March 26th, until April 20th. Students choosing this option would still receive a "W" on their transcript, but would be able to avoid having a poor, or failing, grade on their transcript, or in their GPA.