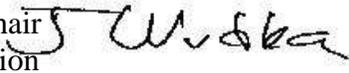




April 3, 2013

To: Ward Beyermann, Chair
Committee on Educational Policy

Ziv Ran, Chair
Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction

From: Jose Wudka, Chair 
Riverside Division

**Re: Petition by the School of Medicine to use a Pass / Fail grading for
SOM medical classes**

Please review the attached request by the School of Medicine. I request an expedited review since this should be settled before students are enrolled. I also include previous related correspondence.



School of Medicine
Office of Sr. Assoc. Dean, Student Affairs
SOM Education Building, Rm. 2609
Riverside, CA 92521
Voice: 951.827.4535
Fax: 951.827.7688
neal.schiller@ucr.edu

April 3, 2013

TO: Jose Wudka, Chair
Academic Senate

RE: Request for use of pass/fail/honors
Grading system for MDCL courses

Dear Jose,

I am writing on behalf of the UCR School of Medicine to petition the Academic Senate to authorize the use of Pass / Fail grading for SOM medical classes (which use the MDCL course designation) in place of the Satisfactory / No Credit grading scheme used by the campus.

We strongly prefer the Pass / Fail system since we use a competency-based grading system for these courses. The UCR SOM uses a wide array of educational pedagogies in support of its curriculum, including many small group interactive sessions which depend on peer-to-peer learning and teamwork. Hence, we do not have any letter or numerical grades posted on the transcript – rather students are provided an overall competence score for each educational unit which, if met or exceeded, results in a Pass grade. Students who do not achieve that competence score are provided a Fail grade which needs to be remediated before advancement to the next academic level (year 2, 3 or 4) can be approved. Therefore, the medical student transcript for years 1 and 2 will reflect only Pass or Fail grading.

For the 3rd and 4th medical school years, we will also use Honors (in addition to Pass / Fail) since superior performance in a specific clerkship or medical elective can identify individual students who merit this designation. The recognition of an Honors performance in a specific clerkship (particularly in a medical discipline which the student hopes to practice) will assist the student's application for the residency position in this discipline.

The use of Pass / Fail / Honors grading is routinely used in medical schools across the country and is very familiar for most residency programs. Since each medical student needs to secure an appropriate residency slot in order to complete their medical training and licensure, adopting this grading scheme for our medical students in the new UCR SOM will be consistent with current practice nationally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neal L. Schiller".

Neal L. Schiller, Ph.D.
Senior Associate Dean, Student Affairs
Distinguished Teaching Professor

 UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA | **Academic
Senate**
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JURISDICTION

March 21, 2013

To: Jose Wudka, Chair
Riverside Division Academic Senate

From: Ziv Ran Chair
Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction

**Re: Request for interpretation of course review & the grading system for
SOM**

The Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction has discussed your query regarding course review and the grading system for the School of Medicine. R&J finds that:

1. Regardless of the status of the Biomedical Science program, all undergraduate courses at UCR are under the purview of the academic senate and subject to review and approval by the appropriate Senate committee(s).
This does not apply to graduate courses offered by the School of Medicine.
2. We concur with your interpretation of SR 778: alternate grading systems should be reviewed by CEP and approved by R&J and the division.



March 6, 2013

Dear Ziv,

I received the requests attached below from the Registrar and I would very much appreciate the opinion of R&J in these matters.

On the matter on course review for the School of Medicine we'll want to make sure that (1) they only will teach graduate courses and what happens if they decide to offer courses with numbers below 200; (2) that there are no complications with their association with the Biomed. Sciences program (e.g. will it be moved into the SoM in the near future? If so, what will it be its relationship to the school?); (3) who will review the courses in SoM? And, of course, any other issues R&J finds pertinent.

On the matter of the grading system I could only find <http://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/manual/rpart3.html#rpart3-IIIch4-3>, especially SR778 as rules for instituting a non-standard one (in this case H/P/NP) and I would like to have R&J's "blessing" before I assert that to the SoM. If the procedure is indeed the one listed in SR778 then I was planning to request a proposal from the School's Executive committee, to be considered by R&J, CEP and any other relevant committees, then to be discussed by Executive Council and, finally by the Division. Please let me know if R&J believe this to be the appropriate process.

Thank you and best regards,

-Jose

From: [Bracken Janette Dailey](#)
To: [Jose Wudka](#)
Cc: [LaRae Lundgren](#); [Cynthia Palmer](#)
Subject: Course Approval and Grade Types for School of Medicine
Date: Wednesday, March 06, 2013 9:59:11 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Jose,

Currently there is a group meeting trying to iron out all the necessary administrative tasks and set up to ensure the School of Medicine is ready for their first class to enroll in Fall 2013. During these meetings I have brought two academic items up that I need your review before moving forward.

1. Course Approval –

I would like to confirm with you the delegation of authority for the courses taught by the School of Medicine. In my discussion with Neil Schiller we have reviewed the Standing Order 105.2

<http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/bylaws/so1052.html> which states

(b)

The Academic Senate shall authorize and supervise all courses and curricula offered under the sole or joint jurisdiction of the departments, colleges, schools, graduate divisions, or other University academic agencies approved by the Board, except that the Senate shall have no authority over courses in the Hastings College of the Law, San Francisco Art Institute, in professional schools offering work at the graduate level only, or over non-degree courses in the University Extension. No change in the curriculum of a college or professional school shall be made by the Academic Senate until such change shall have been submitted to the formal consideration of the faculty concerned.

Based on this information, the initial thought is that the approval of courses would be held within the School of Medicine and not be the authority of Committee on Courses based on the underlined exception above. The piece that I am unclear about is the true relationship of Biomedical Sciences with the School of Medicine. Currently there are undergraduate courses approved to be offered by Biomedical Science (BMSC 091, 092, 093, 094, 097, 191, 194 and 197L). If Biomedical Science is not under the School of Medicine then it seems that the exception would be relevant because the School of Medicine only offers graduate level work, but if Biomedical Science is actually under the School of Medicine then it would seem that authority of courses would lie with the Academic Senate. As a point of information, Neil has discussed the desire to retain the subject code of BMSC for certain courses that would be taken by non-

medical students and then use a new subject code of MDCL for course taken by medical students only.

I did query the other UC campuses who have medical schools and below are some of the responses I received. I greatly appreciate your review and determination on how UCR should proceed related to the authority of courses for the School of Medicine.

San Diego

-

Until very recently all courses, even School of Medicine, went through our normal course approval process. However, SOM courses also went through a SOM Committee on Courses. Recently, our EPC (CEP) formally delegated the authority to approve SOM courses to the SOM Committee on Courses. That is only for courses that are only for medical students. If the courses are also for graduate students then they still have to go through the full approval process. A side note – our new eCourse system does not include the approval workflow for the SOM. Therefore, they are still using the old paper Course Approval forms.

Davis

Under the Regents' Standing Orders, the Davis Division Committee on Courses of Instruction has authority over all courses offered by professional schools that also offer undergraduate courses of instruction. The School of Medicine agrees that the Committee on Courses of Instruction retains authority over all courses in the School of Medicine numbered 1 to 99, 100 to 199, 200 to 299, and 300 to 399.

By authority of the Memorandum of Understanding (see attached 1187_001pdf) , the Committee on Courses of Instruction agrees to delegate its authority over courses numbered 400 to 499 in the UC Davis School of Medicine to the Faculty of the School of Medicine.

The Faculty Executive Committee, Block Council, Fourth Year Oversight Subcommittee, Committee on Education Policy, and specific curriculum subcommittees must approve all new medical school curriculum, with existing medical course changes/updates approved on the department level.

<http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/mdprogram/curriculum/committees.html>.

San Francisco

The UCSF Committee on Courses approves all School of Medicine courses. But

note Standing Order 105.2(b); Riverside may want to proceed differently:

<http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/bylaws/so1052.html>

(One point of potential confusion for us is whether M.D. courses are “graduate level” since they use 100-series course numbers, which normally are for upper-division courses.)

2. **New Grading Types** –

In speaking with Neil Schiller in the School of Medicine, I believe we will need to have new grading types approved for UCR. It is my understanding that the School of Medicine will need Pass (P)/No Pass (NP) for courses offered in the first two years and then Honors (H)/Pass (P)/No Pass (NP) for Clerkship curriculum in the third and fourth years. In reaching out to the other campuses I believe that this needs to be approved through our campus and then my understanding is that it needs to be approved at the Systemwide Academic Senate.

I would greatly appreciate your guidance on the submission of this request by the School of Medicine on campus and the process they must complete or if I am incorrect in my understanding I appreciate your guidance on how best to proceed. There is a desire to have this approved for Fall 2013 so that there is consistency on the student transcripts. The current courses for Fall 2013 are approved with Satisfactory (S)/No Credit (NC) grading that is our current campus grading type.

I greatly appreciate your guidance on these two issues. If you have any questions that I can assist with, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you
Bracken



Bracken Dailey | Registrar

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