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Date: April 26, 2016 at 8:42:45 AM PDT
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Cc: Cherysa P Cortez <cherysa.cortez@ucr.edu>
Subject: [Expedited Review] Campus Review: Regulation Change to Grading System - R1.3.2 SN/C

For Review by R&J and the College & School Executive Committees
Responses due to senate@ucr.edu by May 4, 2016

Attached for review is a proposed change to the Division Regulation R1.3.2 in R1 Grading System regarding changes to grading policy as related to S/NC grading bylaws for Fall 2016 implementation. Please send your response to senate@ucr.edu by May 4th in order for this important item to make the Spring Division Meeting Agenda. Thank you and apologies for the expedited review request in this case. As always, no committee is required to opine if it considers this subject to be outside its charge.

Many thanks,

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA RIVERSIDE
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To be adopted:

Proposed changes to grading policy as it related to S/NC grading bylaws for Fall 2016 implementation. Adjust bylaw R1.3.2 in R1 GRADING SYSTEM.

PRESENT:

1. **R1.2.1** Subject to the approval of the Graduate Council, each department may set conditions regulating the taking of courses by graduate students on an S/NC basis. Except as provided in R1.3.1, each department may decide that some graduate courses be taken on an A, B, C, D, F basis only. It may require that some graduate courses be taken on an S/NC basis only (provided it proves this to be educationally necessary and gains approval through the channels stated in R1.3). The department may also allow a third (residual) category in which a graduate student may elect to take any course on an S/NC basis, provided that the student's advisor consents.

2. **R1.3** Departments may designate graduate or undergraduate courses to be graded only on an S/NC basis, provided that they have the approval of the Executive Committee of the college (and the Graduate Council for graduate courses) and the Committee on Courses and the Division, except as provided in

3. **R1.3.1** Courses in the 290 series (290-299) shall be graded S/NC unless approved for A, B, C, D, F grading by the Graduate Council on the recommendation of the department.

PROPOSED:

1. No change (included for reference)

2. No change (included for reference)

3. No change (included for reference)
4. R1.3.2 Graduate students may not take undergraduate courses in their major fields on an S/NC basis. Exceptions must be approved by the Dean of the Graduate Division. (En 24 Jan 74)

15/16 CATALOG COPY:
Satisfactory/No Credit (S/NC) Grading - Graduate students may take course work on an S/NC basis only when the course description indicates that this is an option. Students who wish to enroll in undergraduate courses on an S/NC basis may petition the Dean. The Graduate Advisor must certify that these courses are not in the student’s major or program of study and this course work cannot be used for graduation. A grade of S is equivalent to a grade of B (3.0) or better but does not count towards the student’s grade point average. No credit is given for a course in which a grade of NC is assigned.

16/17 CATALOG COPY:
Satisfactory/No Credit (S/NC) Grading - Graduate students may take course work on an S/NC basis only when the course description indicates that this is an option. Graduate students may not use undergraduate or graduate courses taken on an S/NC basis to complete their master’s or PhD degree requirements, unless the course is only offered on an S/NC basis. Exceptions must be approved by the Dean of the Graduate Division. A grade of S is equivalent to a grade of B (3.0) or better but does not count towards the student’s grade point average. No credit is given for a course in which a grade of NC is assigned.

Justification:
Traditionally, 200-level graduate courses were offered for a letter grade only. More recently, 200-level courses have been proposed with the option of Letter Grade or S/NC. This has led to confusion regarding if courses used for degree requirements can be graded on an S/NC basis.

As a result, the bylaw has been clarified to encompass graduate level courses, as well as undergraduate. Past Graduate Council rulings are clear that the expectation is 200-level courses used for degree requirements be taken for a letter grade.

Approvals:

Approved by the Graduate Dean: 3/22/2016
Approved by the Graduate Council: 4/21/2016
Committee on Rules & Jurisdiction finds the wording to be consistent with the code of the Academic Senate:
Received by Executive Council: