

Faculty Senate Resolution Number _____

To: Joe Bertolino, Ed.D., President, Southern Connecticut State University
From: Deborah Weiss, Ph.D., President, SCSU Faculty Senate

The attached Resolution of the Faculty Senate is entitled:

RESOLUTION Regarding _____

This Resolution was approved by Faculty Senate on: _____

- This Resolution is presented for APPROVAL
 This Resolution is presented for INFORMATION

In accordance with the CSU-AAUP Contract (Article 5.10), "When the Senate makes a written recommendation to the President, the President shall acknowledge and respond to the recommendation in writing within fifteen (15) school days of receiving the Senate's recommendation. "

After considering this resolution, please indicate your action on this form and return it to the President of the Faculty Senate.

Deborah Weiss, Ph.D., President, Faculty Senate Date

cc: Robert S. Prezant, Ph.D., Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

ACTION OF THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Resolution for Approval:

- Resolution APPROVED
 Resolution DISAPPROVED (Provide comments below or attach statement)

Resolution for Information:

- Resolution NOTED (applies to Informational Resolutions only)

Joe Bertolino, Ed.D., President, SCSU

Date

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
RESOLUTION REGARDING GRADUATE STUDENT PASS/FAIL OPTION FOR SPRING 2021

Whereas, Southern Connecticut State University exists for the primary purpose of furthering academic excellence;

Whereas, The SCSU Faculty Senate is the official representative body of the Academic Faculty;

Whereas, The extenuating circumstances caused by the on-going COVID-19 pandemic continue to present unprecedented challenges to students;

Whereas, Students may be disadvantaged by these changes, resulting in poorer class performance that does not reflect their typical classroom performance;

Whereas, Faculty wish to provide students with every opportunity to achieve successful completion of their courses this semester, stay on track towards their graduation, and reduce the level of stress that they are likely experiencing;

Whereas, Allowing students to take courses on a Pass/Fail basis could provide them with an option that will help to achieve the above; and

Whereas, The current Pass/Fail option is not adequate to accomplish this given its restrictions and given the fact that Students would have needed to elect a course as Pass/Fail by the fourth week of the semester, which has already passed; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the following revised Graduate Pass/Fail policy be implemented for the Spring 2021 semester:

- On a department-specific basis, and with the approval of their graduate program advisor, matriculated students in some graduate programs are eligible to register for certain required or elective courses on a Pass/Fail basis. Undergraduate courses listed in any program that students are required to take to strengthen their academic backgrounds may not be taken under the Pass/Fail option.
- During the Spring 2021 semester, students may elect to take one course under the Pass/Fail option.
- After consulting with the student, the advisor (or chair if the advisor is the instructor of the course in question) would complete and submit a Pass/Fail form for the student to then authorize by the deadline.
- The deadline for submitting a Pass/Fail request shall be extended to May 9th, the last day of classes.
- The Pass/Fail option is non-reversible. Students will be advised that once they have selected the Pass/Fail option, it will not be possible to revert to a graded option.
- The process for electing the Pass/Fail option shall be automated to the greatest extent possible via a web form. This web form shall provide the student with information about the policy, provide the students with a link to courses that have been designated as exempt by departments (i.e., are not available for Pass/Fail under this revised policy), require that the students indicate that they have read and understood the Pass/Fail policy, and shall direct students to their graduate program advisors or chairs for consultation.

- The Pass/Fail option is blind in that the instructor is not aware of the student's use of the Pass/Fail option until after the grades are submitted, except where the instructor is also the advisor or chair.
- The final grade will be reported as “P” if the final grade earned is “C” or higher. This grade earns zero quality points and has no effect on the GPA but does count as attempted credit. If the final grade earned is C- or below, the final grade will be reported as “F.” This grade earns zero quality points, but will impact the GPA, and does count as attempted credit. Courses taken for Pass/Fail might not be accepted for transfer credit when attending another institution; are excluded from GPA calculations which may impact a student’s ability to meet certain GPA requirements needed for their major, graduation, or honors; and may not be satisfactory in meeting prerequisite requirements when applying to other graduate programs.