

Provost Report – Faculty Senate, April 3, 2020

1. **MS Update:** My thanks to the MS Working Groups as they continue their work and submit their draft chapter documents.
2. **Return to “Form”**
 - a. Very Positive Engagement and Participation for the Blackboard and MS Teams Workshops has been reported
 - b. Professional Staff and Secretaries are back online
 - c. MS Teams: Please be reminded that Academic Affairs has already notified you about the ZOOM related concerns. <https://www.npr.org/2020/04/03/826129520/a-must-for-millions-zoom-has-a-dark-side-and-an-fbi-warning>
 - **Join us for a 100 level training on Microsoft Teams. During this session we will cover the basics of how to utilize the application including the chat, meetings and teams section.**
Basic MS Teams Training (100 level) will be offered on
o Monday 04/06/2020 from 3PM – 4PM EST
§ Register
at: https://www.microsoft.com/store/event_registration/?eid=196750438&locid=95004
 - d. Faculty
 - Flexibility in this current Emergency Response for Instruction: Bandwidth & Immediacy <https://www.iddblog.org/videoconferencing-alternatives-how-low-bandwidth-teaching-will-save-us-all/>
 - [SUNY Remote Teaching Clinic](#)
 - **Student Help.** <https://innovate.suny.edu/covid19/students/>
 - Attached Non-Academic Help – Summary Sheet (attached)
3. Implementation of Temporary Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) Grading Policy
 - a. **Need graduate programs to determine whether or not the policy can apply to graduate programs?**
 - b. **Highlights:** Features of the Temporary Policy
 - CR/NC is a grading option that **already is in existence**, which effectively is the **same as a Pass/Fail grade option that does not affect GPA.**
 - Provision to allow students to **opt-in at any point through May 24.**
 - **Faculty member will not need to approve the request but will be notified if they choose this option in lieu of a letter grade (A-F)**

- **Degree granting departments are in the best position to advise students** who are considering this option about the potential impacts. Therefore, we **strongly urge (recommend) that any student exercising this option, first consult with an academic advisor and financial aid advisor** to determine the possible consequences associated with this grading choice.
- c. Opportunity for the Faculty to help the Administration with the mitigation for students
- **Timely grade submission:** grades submitted on time will help students using the option.
 - **Create Advisories for the major:** there is considerable variance in the grading rules for majors. Here are some illustrations:
 - **Proficiency designations (p. 39):** e.g., Eng & MA, “C” or higher (some degree programs designate higher grade thresholds)
 - **Variance across depts. & schools:** C- through C+, some stipulate average GPA, some include C or higher in certain courses & an overall gpa, etc.
 - **Licensure & certification degrees:** CR/NC may not be possible
 - **COVID-19 contingency exceptions:** Consider whether or not there is room for dept sanctioned exceptions this semester (e.g., will majors accept at least one CR grade to satisfy a course requirement for the degree this semester?)
 - **Creative GPA related mitigations:** Since students can exercise the option after receiving their grades. Is it possible to note the grade as acceptable and then allow the student to opt as a means to avoid negative impacts on their GPA?
- d. Phasing the Contingency and the Mitigated Impact
- **Triage the class distribution** to maximize student effort, minimize student anxiety and optimize student outcomes through the grading/assessment feedback and the advising.
 - **CR/NC is not magic** – it is only one tool.
 - **Faculty governance may be able to help. Timing is everything.** Suspending Academic Standing impacts will likely be helpful but governance should help the administration determine if it is a good strategy, and if so, when is a good time to announce?

4. Additional Notes

- a. **Modified Agreement reached with Elsevier** (smaller list of 248 journals). Toni will soon be able to handle any other inquiries
- b. **ARPT matters:**
 - Academic Affairs has asked for **scheduling accommodations** to be made for faculty under review this semester to the extent that such is possible (**Provost Memo to ARPT Committee, March 27, 2020**).

- **SUNY and UUP are in discussions for a MOU** to address the impact of COVID-19 on the promotion and tenure process, which will likely include some flexibility to stop the tenure clock. Please standby.
 - **Student Course Evaluations (optional for faculty files but exclusion is not to viewed negatively)**
 - **Peer Observations (optional no penalty for the absence of peer evaluations for this semester)**
- c. **Logistical Assistance** for Faculty Governance from AA: Jacob Heller