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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes April 2, 2020

Missouri University of Science and Technology Faculty Senate

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I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by President Steve Corns. Roll was called by Secretary Kelly Homan. Those whose names are **grayed out** below were absent.

Brent Unger, Jorge Porcel, Darren Fink for Terry Robertson, Mark Mullin, David Westenberg, Craig Claybaugh, Fui-Hoon Nah, **Parthasakha Neogi**, Jee Ching Wang, Amitava Choudhury, Gary Grubbs for Klaus Woelk, Joel Burken for Stuart Baur, Mark Fitch, William Schonberg, Michael Gosnell, Chaman Sabharwal, **Michael Davis**, Mahalet Fikru, Ali Hurson, Kurt Kosbar, Sahra Sedigh Sarvestani, Maciej Zawodniok, Venkat Allada, Steve Raper, Sarah Hercula, Dan Reardon, Ralph Flori, Jonathan Obrist-Farner, Kathleen Sheppard, William Fahrenholtz, Jeff Smith, Alvan Akin for Akim Adekpedjou, Matt Insall, S.N. Balakrishnan, Jie Gao, Kelly Homan, Ashok Midha, **Lonnie Pirtle**, **Samuel Frimpong**, **Shoaib Usman**, Ulrich Jentschura, Alexey Yamilov for Michael Schulz, Amber Henslee, Michelle Schwartze

II. Academic Freedom and Standards

Kurt Kosbar presented for the Academic Freedom and Standards Committee (AFS). As Missouri S&T transitions to online courses, some students are working in challenging situations. Many universities have adopted alternative grading policies and more are talking about it. Other schools in the UM System are allowing any or all courses to switch to pass/fail grading. Changes are coming and if the faculty senate decides the changes, it will increase faculty buy-in.

AFS has looked at some things that would require a lot of academic departments to review their programs and possibly make changes at this point. However, this was deemed undesirable.

The AFS proposal is that all F grades this semester be replaced by U grades. Instructors assign A, B, C, and D grades as normal grades. In addition, an F grade will now be recorded as a U, regardless of what grading scale the student chose originally. Students can then request that any, all, or none of their classes be changed to the S/U grading through June 5th. The June 5th date is about a week and a half after final instructor assigned grades are visible.

There have been changes to deadlines. The last day for 25% refund has already been changed by the system to be April 10 instead of March 16.

As part of the AFS proposal, we are proposing that instructors have another few days to submit grades. Grades are typically due the Tuesday after final exams. The proposal would extend that to the Friday of that week to allow people more time to

collect material from off campus and handle any issues that might come up. The first day students could view their grades is then also pushed back by roughly the same number of days. The threshold or the last day of change to the grading scale is June 5.

Just as a reminder, faculty senate decisions normally take effect after 30 days, but a four-fifths vote can make the decision effective immediately.

The Academic Freedom and Standards made the motion to change the grading system for spring semester 2020 as outlined below.

1. Instructors will grade students on an ABCDU grading scale, rather than the conventional ABCDF scale. The only difference between the scales is that F level work will now be indicated with a U grade.
2. Student who initially selected the ABCDF grading scale may elect to change it to the S/U grading scale at any time through close of business on Friday, June 5th. Students will be able to view their instructor-assigned grade, now listed on the ABCDU scale, no later than Wednesday, May 27.
3. Students will be allowed to select their grading scale on a class-by-class basis. They may select S/U grades for some of their classes, while keeping others on the more conventional ABCDU scale.
4. Students who elected to change grading options in a class from ABCDU to S/U in April, May or June will have an instructor-assigned A, B or C grade replaced by an S grade. These students will have instructor-assigned D grade replaced by a U grade.
5. The Faculty Senate instructs the Registrar, all academic departments, and all instructors to accept spring semester 2020 "S" grades as satisfying all graduation and prerequisite requirements, which are normally satisfied by a grade of C or higher. All spring semester 2020 A, B, C, D and U grades should be treated in the same manner as they are every other semester.
6. Note that a "U" grade will not be considered a passing grade, even if the instructor initially assigned a grade of "D".
7. "S" and "U" grades will continue to have no impact on a student's GPA calculations.
8. These changes in the grading policy are only for spring semester 2020, with every expectation of a return to the conventional grading scales and deadlines for summer 2020 and future semesters.
9. Students may unilaterally select the S/U grade, and do not require the approval of their academic advisor or instructor. However, this decision may have significant and unexpected consequences. The Faculty Senate strongly encourages students to discuss this decision with their academic advisor, and

advisors in other areas such as financial aid, veteran's affairs, international studies and immigration, athletics, ROTC, taxation, and others.

10. The deadline for instructors to submit grades to the Registrar's office is changed from Tuesday, May 19 to Friday, May 22. Grades will be visible to students in the JoeSS system no later than Wednesday, May 27.

11. Instructors will not know at the time they assign semester grades, if a student has elected to change to the S/U scale in April, May or June (but obviously knows if a student selected the S/U scale back at the start of spring semester 2020).

12. Any course in which a student received an S/U grade for spring semester 2020 may be repeated in future semesters.

13. Student Academic Regulation II.G.1 will not be enforced for spring semester 2020 coursework. This regulation normally limits students to one pass/fail course per semester, and no more than 20% of their credit hours toward graduation as pass/fail classes.

14. Student Academic Regulation II.G.2 will not be enforced for spring semester 2020. This regulation normally prohibits a student from taking most of their required courses with the pass/fail option.

15. Student Academic Regulation II.G.10 will be modified for spring semester 2020. Students who change to the pass/fail grading scale after the month of March will have "D" work recorded as "U", while students who selected the pass/fail option before the month of March will have "D" work recorded as "S". All other parts of this regulation remain the same.

16. Student Academic Regulation II.G.11 will not be enforced for spring semester 2020. This regulation normally prohibits a student from changing grading options after the second week of the semester.

17. Students will not be placed on scholastic probation or scholastic deficiency based on their spring semester 2020 grades. Scholastic probation and deficiency are defined in section IX of the Student Academic Regulations.

18. The university has an obligation to document the last date of academic activity for students who receive a grade of "U", but not for students who earn grades of A, B, C, D or S. If an instructor initially assigns a student a grade of "D", and the student elects to change it to a grade of "U", the last date academic activity will be assumed May 15, 2020, unless the instructor indicates otherwise.

19. Students who wish to be considered for the spring 2020 S&T Semester Honor Roll, as defined in section VIII.E of the Student Academic Regulations, will need to complete 12 or more semester hours of work using the ABCDU grading scale.

A motion was made by Gary Grubbs to strike point three (3) from the AFS proposal. No second was received so the motion failed.

A vote on the original motion submitted by the AFS Committee was then taken. Motion passed.

A motion was then made to have the changes to the grading system for spring semester 2020 become effective immediately. The vote to approve was unanimous. Motion passed.

III. **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 3:22 pm