Pass-Fail Option

Policy Statement

Objectives
A Pass-Fail grading option must be consistent with the overall objectives of the University and the characteristics of the student body. The concept of any grading system should lend support to the goals of quality instruction and scholarly performance with due consideration for the individual needs and capacities of the students.

The primary objective of the Pass-Fail option is to encourage students to take courses they might otherwise avoid because of lack of background or concern for lowering their grade point average (GPA). The Pass-Fail option should allow a student to explore and experiment in academic areas without the anxiety of grade-point reduction. It should provide the opportunity for students to explore possible choice of major without disastrous consequences should such a choice prove undesirable.

This exploration through the Pass-Fail option should give an extra dimension to the students’ academic boundaries by enlarging the peripheral subject matter that frequently might be touched on lightly or not at all in the students’ curriculum.

Administrative procedures for choosing to take a course under the Pass-Fail option should be flexible enough to provide for unusual circumstances and/or temporary academic and student-faculty conditions. These procedures should be designed so as to encourage students to look upon this option as a means to enable serious academic endeavors and not as a device for circumventing requirements.

Not all courses are approved to be taken Pass-Fail. The Registrar’s Office can verify whether a course is approved to be taken as Pass-Fail.

1. Students may choose the Pass-Fail option for a total of 15 hours of free electives. Courses taken under the Pass-Fail option must be exclusive of general education, major, minor, and other course requirements for graduation. Eligible courses must belong exclusively to the category, free electives.
2. Students who have earned 30 or more semester hours of credit with a minimum GPA of 2.0 shall be eligible for the Pass-Fail option.
3. Students may choose the Pass-Fail option for one course per semester with a maximum of five credit hours per semester.
4. Hours passed under the Pass-Fail option will not be used in the computation of GPA’s; however, hours failed (“F”) will be used.
5. Students may repeat a course using the Pass-Fail option only if the previous taking was also Pass-Fail.
6. Students may select the “Pass-Fail” option by completing the Audit/Pass-Fail registration form, available from the Registrar’s Office. Students may change to or from the Pass-Fail option by the date specified each semester in the Colonel’s Compass. The student must submit to the Registrar’s Office the completed form as authorization to change their registered course to Pass/Fail.

NOTE: Italics above indicate editorial or other changes to policy adopted by the Board of Regents.

Entities Affected by the Policy

- Students
- Colleges

This policy has not yet been reviewed under Policy 1.1.1. For purposes of cataloging, it has been placed in an abbreviated form of the policy template. It remains an official university policy and will eventually be reviewed under Policy 1.1.1.
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President Martin stated that Mr. John K. Hopper, who had been employed by the Board at its meeting on March 19, 1969, to join the faculty, had notified the University that he would not be able to accept the appointment because of family obligations.

President Martin informed the Board that Mr. H. Warren Robbins, who was employed by the Board at its meeting on January 15, 1969, as a member of the faculty, has informed the University that, due to personal reasons, he will not be able to accept the position.

President Martin stated that Mrs. Lynn Whitcroft has been employed in the Department of Art to instruct three courses in ART 200 to replace Mr. Joseph Murrin. He stated that Mrs. Whitcroft assumed these responsibilities on April 28, 1969, and that she would be employed for six weeks or one-third of the semester. President Martin recommended that the Board of Regents approve this employment and that Mrs. Whitcroft be paid $560 for this work.

It was then moved by Mr. Fred Bishop that the Board of Regents approve the changes in appointment as recommended by the President, acknowledge the notifications of Mr. Hopper and Mr. Robbins that they cannot accept employment and approve the employment of Mrs. Lynn Whitcroft for the term and at the salary recommended by the President. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wilson Palmer and when the roll was called, the following voted "aye": Mr. Begley, Mr. Bishop, Mr. Clay, Mr. Combs, Mr. Palmer and Mr. Wallace. Those voting "nay": none.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

PROPOSALS CONCERNING ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

President Martin stated that he had received several proposals transmitted to him by Dr. Thomas F. Stovall, Vice President for Academic Affairs, which he wished to present to the Board of Regents with his recommendation that they be approved. He stated that these proposals have been approved by the appropriate committee, the Council on Academic Affairs and the Faculty Senate.

The proposals presented were:

1. Proposal to allow students to elect "pass-fail" option for free elective courses.

PROPOSED PASS-FAIL GRADING OPTION

Objectives

A Pass-Fail grading option must be consistent with the overall objectives of the University and the characteristics of the student body. The concept of any grading system should lend support to the goals of quality instruction and scholarly performance with due consideration for the individual needs and capacities of the students.

The primary objective of the Pass-Fail option is to encourage students to take courses they might otherwise avoid because of lack of background or concern for lowering grade-point standings. The Pass-Fail option should allow a student to explore and experiment in academic areas without the anxiety of grade-point reduction. It should provide the opportunity for students to explore possible choice of major without disastrous consequences should such a choice prove undesirable.

This exploration through the Pass-Fail option should give an extra dimension to the students' academic boundaries by enlarging the peripheral subject-matter that frequently might be touched on lightly or not at all in the students' curriculum.

Administrative procedures for choosing to take a course under the Pass-Fail option should be flexible enough to provide for unusual circumstances and/or temporary academic and student faculty conditions. These procedures should be designed so as to encourage students to look upon this option as a means to enable serious academic endeavors and not as a device for circumventing requirements.
1. Students may choose the Pass-Fail option for a total of 15 hours of free electives. Courses taken under the Pass-Fail option must be exclusive of general education, major, minor, and other course requirements for graduation.

2. Students who have earned 30 or more semester hours of credit with a minimum grade-point of 2.0 shall be eligible to choose the Pass-Fail option.

3. Students may choose the Pass-Fail option for no more than one course with a maximum of five credit hours per semester.

4. Students may choose the Pass-Fail option or choose to make a change from the Pass-Fail option to the usual grading procedure only during preregistration registration, or up to the last date given in each semester's schedule when courses may be dropped without a grade.

5. Students may choose the Pass-Fail option for free electives as indicated above, but the instructors for these courses will not be informed when students in their classes are under the Pass-Fail option. Instructors for all classes will turn in, as usual, the designated end-of-course grades, and the Registrar will convert the assigned letter grade to a "Pass" or "Fail" grade, as applicable.

6. Students may choose the Pass-Fail option to satisfy free elective requirements for graduation, but grades of "Pass" and "Fail" will not be used in the computation of grade-point averages.

Further Comment

The Pass-Fail grading option should be established with the understanding that all provisions of the program and the entire program shall be evaluated annually during the first three years. The President of the University, working through the Vice President for Academic Affairs, shall be responsible for having this review conducted.

Administrative procedures not stated shall be established by the Council on Academic Affairs.

2. Proposal to offer courses for which only pass or fail grades will be assigned.

PROPOSAL TO OFFER COURSES FOR WHICH ONLY A PASS OR FAIL GRADE IS REPORTED

It should be recognized that special circumstances or the characteristics of certain courses may make it appropriate and desirable to offer courses for which only a "Pass" or "Fail" grade is reported for all students. Departments wishing to offer such courses may do so, subject to the approval of their colleges and the Council on Academic Affairs. Administrative procedures for the reporting and recording of grades for these courses shall be established by the Council on Academic Affairs.


PROPOSED PROGRAM

MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN EDUCATION WITH EMPHASIS IN SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK

1. Proposal

It is proposed that Eastern Kentucky University initiate a degree program for the education of School Social Workers effective, June, 1969. The program shall be designated: Master of Arts in Education, with emphasis in School Social Work. As a supporting area to the pupil personnel-guidance function, the program shall be administered by the Department of Education in the College of Education, to be succeeded by the Department of Educational Psychology and Guidance, and offered jointly with the Department of Anthropology and Sociology in the College of Arts and Sciences.
EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Minutes of the Faculty Senate
April 7, 1969

The Faculty Senate of Eastern Kentucky University met at 4:10 p.m., Monday, April 7, 1969, in Room 318, Combs Building, with Mr. William E. Sexton, Chairman, presiding. There being a quorum present, the Chairman called the meeting to order. (President Robert R. Martin, who was present, requested that the Chairman preside.)

On motion by Mr. Leslie H. Leach, seconded by Mr. Joseph Schwendeman, the minutes of the meeting of March 3, 1969, were approved as distributed.

The Chairman recognized Mr. Thomas Stovall to present the first item on the agenda, the Report of the Council on Academic Affairs. Mr. Stovall indicated that copies of the proposed Pass-Fail Grading Option had been distributed to members of the Senate and that the proposals had been prepared in two parts. He told the Senate members that these proposals had been prepared by a sub-committee of the Council on Academic Affairs composed of Mr. Glenn Carey, Chairman, Mr. Roy Barlow, and Mr. Charles Gibson. He then moved that the Senate approve the adoption of the proposed Pass-Fail Grading Option as distributed. This motion was seconded by Mr. Robert Posey. In the discussion of the motion Mr. Alvin McGlasson stated that he agreed with the philosophy of the proposal but questioned the secrecy of the administration of the option and that four grades, A, B, C, and D, were to be considered as Pass. Mr. Stovall replied that the students who had worked with the sub-committee as well as members of the sub-committee felt that there was a possibility that some faculty members might feel negatively toward students under the option and that in some way the same evaluation would not be received by students under the option. He said that the grades received would probably be S and U. Mr. Carey said that after checking with at least fifty other institutions it was felt that the secrecy plan was more conducive to the academic atmosphere of a class. Mr. Stovall pointed out that the plan presented was a modest one and quite conservative and provision had been made for evaluation and changes at a later date. Mr. Bennie Lane raised the question as to what might happen if a student should change majors after taking a course under the Pass-Fail Option which was a required course in the new major or minor. Mr. Stovall replied that he hoped that no penalty would be exacted of the student and that departments could possibly arrange a substitute course. Mr. Kelly Thurman stated that it was quite possible that in certain majors or minors that fifteen hours of free electives was not available. Mr. Stovall said that he hoped that in certain curricula more electives might be permitted than presently allowed. Mr. Sanford Jones called attention to the fact that in the Biology major only about five hours of elective work was not prescribed. Mr. Donald Haney asked for a definition of "free electives" and was informed by Mr. Stovall that these were electives not specified as belonging to certain areas of instruction. In further discussion question was raised concerning the fact that a "D" grade now carries a penalty and that by word of mouth the secrecy of the option would be violated. On voting the Faculty Senate approved the motion.
The Chair then recognized Mr. Thomas Stovall who moved that the proposal to offer courses for which only a Pass or Fail grade was reported be approved by the Senate. This motion was seconded by Mr. Joseph Schwendeman. Mr. Stovall indicated that the same sub-committee would work on the implementation of this and that the courses would be later submitted to the departments for approval. The motion carried.

The Chairman then called for old business and recognized Mr. J. C. Powell to present the Report of the Student Affairs Committee. Mr. Powell stated that since the Report was first presented open meetings with faculty and students had been held and the reactions and concerns of those appearing had been carefully studied by the Committee. He said that editorial changes had been made; that in some instances the phraseology of the material had been altered; and that in some areas where it was felt that a study in depth was needed some material was completely deleted. He stated that in the main such changes as were made contributed to the clarity of the concept. He then moved that the revised statement titled "Student Relationships" be approved by the Faculty Senate and forwarded to the President of the University for consideration for recommendation to the Board of Regents. This motion was seconded by Mr. Branley Branson.

After calling for any discussion of the motion and second Mr. Sexton recognized Mr. R. H. Chrisman who moved that the material appearing on page 20, #5, Housing Contract, be revised to read as follows:

"A housing contract setting forth the terms under which space is rented is required of the University and all students residing in University-owned or operated housing units. (Last sentence could be deleted. If included, should read: "Both the University and the students are responsible for fulfilling the terms and conditions of the contract under which space is rented."

This motion was seconded by Mr. Wade Marlette. In the discussion which followed Mr. Powell pointed out that the regulations appearing in the document were written for students and in terms of what applied to students and, although naturally there were two parties concerned, he felt the material as worded was the correct statement. On voting the Faculty Senate defeated the motion.

The Chair then recognized Mrs. Jimmie Moomaw, who moved that the Faculty Senate amend Section 8 of Page 8 (Revised) by adding the following:

"Due process shall include: (1) Adequate notice of the charges (2) Reasonable opportunity to prepare a defense (3) An orderly hearing adopted to the nature of the case; and (4) A fair and impartial decision."