



The Student Senate

Texas A&M University

S.R. 73-36

Texas A&M University
The Student Senate
73rd Session


The Fall 2020 Pass/Fail Resolution

"A resolution urging the Faculty Senate to make available to students the option of Pass/Fail grading for the fall semester of 2020"

Action Taken:

PASSED

Certified By:


Zachary McCue
Speaker of the Senate

Date Passed: 11-27-2020

Introduced By: Zach McCue, Speaker of the Senate, Off Campus Caucus
Eric Mendoza, Student Body President
Karissa McIntosh, Chief Justice
Chandler Trosclair, Speaker Pro Tempore, On Campus Caucus
Hannah Spurr, Off Campus Caucus
Sam Jefferis, Academic Affairs Chair, Engineering Caucus

Sponsored By: Iman Ahmed, Diversity & Inclusion Chair, Off Campus Caucus
Meghan Hein, Rules & Regulations Chair, C.O.A.L.S. Caucus
Clarissa Rodriguez, Constituency Affairs Chair, Engineering Caucus
Fawaz Syed, Student Services Chair, Engineering Caucus
Joshua Eric Feldman, Legislative Relations Chair, Off Campus Caucus
Carly Oldag, Community Relations Chair, C.O.A.L.S. Caucus
John Carter Teague, Finance Chair, C.O.A.L.S. Caucus


Whereas(1): Faculty and students continue to have immense challenges in education with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and this has forced students to focus more time on issues outside of their studies than would traditionally be the case. Students and professors alike have had to push through their work while facing growing mental



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health concerns¹, economic strain², and a unique set of new responsibilities and hardships that the pandemic has caused, and;

Whereas(2): These additional strains on students' lives have impacted their ability to perform academically at the same level they could pre-pandemic, especially with many not being able to learn in the teaching modality that best suits them due to COVID-19's impact on class formats, and;

Whereas(3): Students of all backgrounds and learning ability face challenges in the adaptation to online / Hybrid learning. Aggies who face environmental externalities, learning disabilities and experience levels with technology, and differing socioeconomic positions³ may still face difficulties adapting to this new and experimental method of learning, and;

Whereas(4): To meet these challenges during the Spring 2020 semester, Texas A&M University enacted additional academic accommodations due to COVID-19. These included the ability for students to take a class Pass/Fail (Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory), and make that decision after final grades were posted, and;

Whereas(5): The Student Senate recognizes that these accommodations were never meant to be permanent and applauds the incredible efforts that university faculty, staff and administrators have made both this semester and last. However, the challenges faced by students in their academic experience in the Spring 2020 semester, still linger this semester, in addition to new challenges that have arisen outlined above, and;

Whereas(6): Seeing that these issues are still present, a large amount of students have reached out strongly urging the implementation of Pass/Fail Grading. Including via a grassroots petition⁴ that has garnered the support of at least ~12,000 signatories, and;

¹<https://www.jmir.org/2020/9/e21279/>

²https://www.jec.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/9f76d1ff-f1ef-4d1c-914b-e2f6df4b4267/covid-19-economic-pressur-e-and-americans-mental-health-final.pdf

³ https://www.nber.org/system/files/working_papers/w26982/w26982.pdf

⁴ <https://www.change.org/p/texas-a-m-university-make-a-m-fall-classes-pass-fail>



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Whereas(7): Similar to the spring 2020 semester, our State and SEC peers, who are direct competitors of our students, have also begun implementing Pass/ Fail accommodations of some sort including The University of Texas at Austin (UT)⁵, and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville (UTK)⁶, and;

Whereas(8): Additional schools that have announced the implementation of Pass/Fail of some sort include The University of Southern California (USC), and The University of California at Berkeley⁷, and;

Therefore

Let it be

Resolved(1): Student Senate, The Student Body President, and the student body, strongly request a method to modify grades Pass/Fail for Fall 2020 semester courses, and;

Therefore

Let it be

Resolved(2): That the Texas A&M University Faculty Senate and Faculty Senate Executive Committee move to re-implement a Pass/Fail grading option in any form for Fall 2020 semester courses, and;

Therefore

Let it be

Resolved(3): That any Pass/Fail implementation recommendation, retroactive or not, be made known to students by the existing Q-drop deadline of November 30th to the extent possible, and;

Therefore

Let it be

Resolved(4): That this document, student testimony, and the Student Government Association be included in the final conversations to consider this request to re-implement a

⁵<https://onestop.utexas.edu/faq-covid19/#:~:text=Pass%2FFail%20or%20Credit%2FNo,times%20as%20needed%20this%20semester.>

⁶https://onestop.utk.edu/policies/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=available%20on%20the%20One%20Stop%20website&utm_campaign=academic-policy-update-fall-2020

⁷ <https://lsadvising.berkeley.edu/fall-2020-and-spring-2021-policy-modifications-and-faq>



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Pass/Fail grading option, and;

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Speaker of the Senate
Zachary McCue

Let it be
Further

Resolved(5): A copy of this resolution be sent to:

Dr. John Stallone, Faculty Senate Speaker

Dr. Carol Fierke, Provost and Executive Vice-President

Dr. Daniel J. Pugh Sr., Vice-President of Student Affairs

Michael K. Young, President of Texas A&M University

The Battalion



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Speaker of the Senate
Zachary McCue

Further Sponsored By: Megha Viswanath, Off Campus Caucus

Joseph Rodgers, Off Campus Caucus
Bryan Marin, College of Vet Med and Biomedical Sciences
Sofia Chunga Pizarro, Off Campus Caucus
David Garcia, Off Campus Caucus
Jordan Vick, Liberal Arts Caucus
Dylan Flores, Off Campus Caucus
Kat Niño, Off Campus Caucus
Dang Dang, Off Campus Caucus
Aariana Myles, Off Campus Caucus
Brogan Gunia, Off Campus Caucus
Dylan Bohn, Mays Business Caucus
Michael McKnight, Off Campus Caucus
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