



University Student Senate
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RESOLUTION

To: Senators, CUNY University Student Senate, CUNY Board of Trustees,
University Faculty Senate, University Provost José Luis Cruz,
Professional Staff Congress

From: Joel De La Cruz

Date: November 29, 2020

Title: Continuing CR/NC / Flexible Grading Policy

WHEREAS, the Credit/ No Credit academic policy was implemented during the Spring 2020 semester to acknowledge the flexibility we all must offer to our students during this difficult time. The City University of New York (CUNY) played a pivotal role this past Spring 2020 semester by implementing the Credit/No Credit (CR/NC policy).

WHEREAS, the policy will allow students to feel less pressure and anxiety about their grades as they navigate this new distance education environment against the backdrop of the disruptions to daily life resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHEREAS, various CUNY Student Government Associations (SGA) have passed resolutions in support of a flexible academic grading policy throughout the Fall 2020 academic semester.

WHEREAS recent studies have shown during the COVID-19 pandemic, students in higher education institutions have reported an increased need for mental health counselors. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “The pandemic’s effect on mental health identified that a disproportionate number of 18 to 24 years old, about one-quarter of those surveyed had “ seriously considered suicide”.

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has shed light on additional struggles students are facing during the semester affecting their academic performance. Food insecurity, financial instability,

mental health hardships, and more contribute to a challenging semester for the CUNY student body.

WHEREAS, students and faculty are juggling academic and personal responsibilities from their home--along with the inevitable intricacies of technological mishaps--the line has been inadvertently blurred to the point where it is difficult to distinguish home, life, and academic responsibilities.

WHEREAS, during the implementation of the CR/NC policy for the Spring semester of 2020, the CUNY administration adopted the policy of non-decimating in the grades of students who applied for the CR/NC policy in any future evaluation, such as applications for transfers among CUNY campuses, applications in graduate-level studies programs, and other programmings that require evaluating a student's transcript. CUNY adopted similar measures to protect students engaged in programming that require GPA or course grade requirements.

RESOLVED, University Student Senate stands solidarity in support with CUNY campuses advocating for the implementation of the CR/NC policy and a continuing of a flexible grading policy.

RESOLVED, University Student Senate calls on all local campus Provosts and administration work with their college governance bodies to implement a flexible grading policy.

FINALLY RESOLVED, the CR/NC policy can provide a safe buffer for students who may not be able to perform their best due to the unprecedented state of the pandemic and the nation. The University Student Senate calls Chancellor Felix V. Matos Rodriguez, University Provost José Luis Cruz, and the CUNY Board of Trustees to approve the implementation of the Credit/ No Credit policy for the Fall 2020 semester.