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PROPOSAL TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE

TITLE: Extension of Changes to Midterm Grading Policy for the 2023-2024 Academic Year

SUBMITTED BY: ECAS

DATE: 14 April 2023

ACTION: Legislative Authority

REFERENCE: 2021 Faculty Handbook, V., 4. Midterm Progress Reports.

RATIONALE: Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the academic success of students transitioning from high school to university, the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate (ECAS) approved an emergency change to the Midterm Progress Report Policy for the 2021-2022 academic year to expand midterm progress reports to all second-year students as well as first-year students. This change was made at the request of the Associate Provost of Academic Affairs and Learning Initiatives in consultation with the Director of Assessment and Student-Centered Analytics, Director of University Advising Initiatives, the Director of the Office of Learning Resources and the Student Success and Persistence Team. ECAS approved the proposal unanimously on 27 August 2021. Staff from Academic Affairs and Learning Initiatives regularly reported on the impact of this change throughout the 2021-2022 academic year to ECAS. The Academic Senate discussed the expansion of midterm grading policies on 19 November 2021 and 18 February 2022.

On 25 March 2022, the Academic Senate voted to extend the policy into the 2022-2023 academic year. That policy was designed to respond both to the immediate needs of first- and second-year students whose transition from high school to university had been significantly disrupted by the pandemic, and students' request for the expansion of midterm feedback for more students.

On 24 February 2023, the Academic Senate voted to expand midterm grading for all undergraduate students to begin in the Fall of 2024.

This policy extends the current emergency expansion of midterm progress reports for secondyear students one additional year before the revised midterm progress report policy goes into effect.

PROPOSAL:

4. Midterm Progress Reports

Faculty members teaching students who are in their first or second year at the University, either first year students or (including transfer students), are required to provide midterm progress reports (i.e., midterm grades) for those students. Faculty members should have assignments or other work products assigned so that they have a basis for the midterm progress report. While midterm progress reports are only required for the first-year and second-year students, they can also provide invaluable information for upper class students and their advisors. Reminders will be sent to all faculty regarding submission instructions and the due date for submission of midterm progress reports. Each faculty member is responsible to review their rosters and determine for which students' midterm progress reports are required. This also means that faculty members who are teaching first- and second-year students should have a basis on which to judge the students' performance by the time midterm grades are due.

IMPLEMENTATION: This policy will reside in the 2023 Faculty Handbook, V., 4. Midterm Progress Reports for the 2023-2024 Academic Year only.