

Executive Committee – Supplemental Report to Senate

At its Meeting of April 26, 2018

FOR ACTION

1. Temporary Broadening of the Senate Policy on Pass/Fail Grades

Senate Executive recommends

that, for Y 2017-2018 and W 2018 courses, the undergraduate policy on Pass / Fail Grades be broadened as follows:

- a. students are permitted to add 6 credits above the normal maximums for both 90 (normally 6 credits) and 120 credit (normally 12 credits)
- b. graduating students and those otherwise in their last term at York may elect a Pass/Fail grade for General Education courses, including Core Science requirements that are part of the BSc General Education requirements
- c. graduating students and others in their final term at York may, in exceptional circumstances, request a Pass/Fail grade in major or minor courses,¹ and outside-the-major required courses, at the discretion of Associate Deans
- d. non-graduating students in good standing may, in exceptional circumstances, request to have General Education courses evaluated as Pass/Fail, not including Core Science requirements that are part of BSc General Education requirements for the BSc

Rationale

With the strike nearing the eight-week mark, students are facing increasing distress about the completion of their studies. While the changes proposed by Senate Executive are modest in kind, and are consistent with the emphasis placed on flexibility and reasonableness articulated in the overall remediation framework, and they will ensure that students are able to receive credit for many courses where they now face uncertainty. A relatively large number of students take General Education courses in their final year of study, and the relaxation of normal regulations will be particularly beneficial. This will provide students with additional options to complete course and finalized grades.

Moreover, students are advised to consider this option with great care before electing it. A pass / fail notation on a course may have a negative impact on applications to graduate and professional programs.

¹ Not including for-credit practica.

Executive Committee – Report to Senate (cont'd)

Senate Policy on Pass/Fail Grades

Students in good standing who have completed a minimum of 24 credits towards an undergraduate degree program may elect to take up to 6 credits on an ungraded basis toward a Bachelor's degree (90 credits) or 12 credits toward an Honours Bachelor's degree (120 credits). The Pass/Fail grading option cannot be chosen by a student for the following:

- major or minor courses (including for- credit practica)
- outside-the-major required courses¹
- courses taken to satisfy General Education or Certificate requirements
- required 1000-level science courses for students in the Faculties of Science & Engineering and Health

Students must confirm their eligibility to complete a course on an ungraded basis. Completed Pass/Fail Application Forms must be submitted to the relevant office within the first two weeks of class. Students who elect to complete a course on an ungraded basis may not revert to taking the course on a graded basis after the last date to drop a course without academic penalty.

Exceptions

The Pass/Fail grading option does not apply for the following:

- graduate degrees or diplomas
- BEd and BEd (Technological Education) degrees
- LLB/JD degree
- BBA and iBBA degrees
- Exchange courses taken at another institution

¹ It is the responsibility of students to be informed of and meet their degree program requirements.

Lesley Beagrie, Chair
Franck van Breugel, Vice-Chair