

SENATE MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2020, 9:00 AM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Dr. Gillian Siddall, Chair	Dr. Mimi Gellman
Dr. Trish Kelly, Vice Chair	Selina Huang
Kevin Bird	Mark Igoliorte
Dr. Ruth Beer	Erin Lucey
Ben Compton	Suzanne Rackover
Cybele Creery	Martin Rose
Hélène Day Fraser	Louise St. Pierre
Keith Doyle	Danielle Zandvliet
Heather Fitzgerald	Celeste Martin
Geoff Plant	Jorma Kujala
Steven Lam	Cissie Fu
Kyla Mallett	

Regrets: Sanya Arora

Guests: Michael Clifford, Philippa Mennell, Lori MacDonald, Louise St. Pierre

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Roll Call – Dr. Gillian Siddall did a roll call.
2. Call to Order – Dr. Gillian Siddall called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.
3. **Motion:** That Senate approve the Agenda as circulated.
Moved / Seconded. **Carried.**

II. NEW BUSINESS

1. Voluntary Withdrawal Deadline Extension. Dr Gillian Siddall presented the preamble and motion.

Preamble:

The terms for voluntary withdrawal from a course are set out in [4.16 Assessment and Academic Standing Policy](#), p. 3: "Withdrawal from a course - Grades of 'W' will be assigned where a student officially de-registers from a course in advance of

the withdrawal deadline each semester. Grades of W bear no academic penalty and will not be calculated as part of a student's GPA, but will appear on a student's academic transcript." The withdrawal deadline for the Spring Term was defined as March 6th in the Academic Calendar for 2019-20 that was approved by Senate in January 2019. Acknowledging the extraordinary circumstances that have affected university operations as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic, and in order to support student wellness and agency at this time, it is recommended that students should have greater flexibility in making withdrawal decisions. Therefore, the following motion is proposed.

Motion: That Senate approves the extension of the official voluntary withdrawal deadline from March 6th to April 3rd, 2020.

Dr. Gillian Siddall amended the motion to read April 6th, instead of April 3rd.

Amended Motion: That Senate approves the extension of the official voluntary withdrawal deadline from March 6th to **April 6th**, 2020.

There was no discussion. Senate unanimously approved the amended motion as presented.

Moved / Seconded

Carried.

2. Pass / Fail Grading – Dr. Gillian Siddall presented the preamble and motion.

Preamble:

Options for assigning pass/fail grades for a course are set out in [4.16 Assessment and Academic Standing Policy](#), p. 3: "Pass/Fail/Credit Grades - Grades of 'Pass' (P), 'Fail' (F) or 'Credit' (CR) may be assigned to select courses that identify P/F/CR as the grading method approved at Senate. Grades of P/F/CR are GPA neutral and will not impact grade point average positively or negatively."

Acknowledging the extraordinary circumstances that have affected university operations as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic, and in order to support student agency at this time, it is recommended that students and faculty should have greater flexibility in arriving at grading decisions. Therefore, the following motion is proposed:

Motion: That, pursuant to *4.16 Assessment and Academic Standing Policy*, Senate approves "Pass" ("P") grades to be available as a grading option for all courses offered during the Spring 2020 term. And, that the "Pass" ("P") grade option may be selected by a student within ten days of receiving their final letter grade, provided they have earned a "D" grade or higher in the relevant course. And, that "P" grades will count for credit and count towards both program requirements and the total credits required for a degree, but will not be factored into a student's GPA.

There was no discussion. Senate unanimously approved the motion as presented.

Moved / Seconded

Carried.

The Chair thanked all Senate members for attending the meeting. The Chair especially acknowledged all faculty for their work to support these special accommodations for students. The Chair also thanked all members of the ECU community for the significant work they have done to adjust to this unprecedented time.

III. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 9:16 am.