

**SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY
ONE WASHINGTON SQUARE
SAN JOSÉ, CA 95192**

**F20-2, University Policy, Grading Changes to Support
Maximum Flexibility for SJSU Students During the Prolonged
COVID-19 Pandemic**

Legislative History:

At its meeting of December 7, 2020, the Academic Senate approved the following policy recommendation presented by Senator Sullivan-Green for the Instruction and Student Affairs Committee with significant amendments from the floor. President Mary A. Papazian approved and signed F20-2 on December 8, 2020.

At its meeting of April 19, 2021, the Academic Senate approved Amendment A to University Policy F20-2. On April 26, 2021, President Mary A. Papazian approved and signed Amendment A to University Policy F20-2. Amendment A removes the strike-out language in the following sentence in F20-2, “That SJSU should, so far as is legally possible, convert all WU grades in Fall 2020 ~~and Spring 2021~~ to W grades.” Amendment A also encourages SJSU to, “...consider, so far as legally possible, converting all grades of Unauthorized Withdrawal (WU) to No Credit (NC) for Winter and Spring 2021.” Amendment A is incorporated into University Policy F20-2 below:

**University Policy
Grading Changes to Support Maximum Flexibility for SJSU Students
During the Prolonged COVID-19 Pandemic**

Whereas: The COVID-19 pandemic continues its unprecedented disruption of university operations; and

Whereas: The SJSU campus and its community were also heavily impacted by unprecedented wildfire activity across the Bay Area in the first weeks of the Fall 2020 semester that resulted in evacuations for faculty, students, and staff, canceled classes, and campus closure; and

Whereas: The SJSU Academic Senate has repeatedly advocated for maximum flexibility and understanding on the part of faculty while working with students; and

Whereas: Student senators are advocating for student voices to be heard regarding decisions related to grading and student success during virtual learning; and

Whereas: Students continue to need accommodation for a variety of hardships including, but not limited to, stress, anxiety, depression, other mental health issues, unexpected disruptions in work schedules, financial difficulties, shifts in housing and study environments, an increase of family responsibilities, and the ability to access adequate or regular computer equipment or internet service; and

Whereas: Students should continue to be afforded the opportunity to request assistance in reducing the potential negative impact that the COVID-19 pandemic and other emergency incidents may have on their academic record; and

Whereas: An overly rapid change to the grading policy without adequate time to properly advise students regarding choosing Credit/No Credit could result in a negative outcome, especially in light of data from Spring 2020 that shows choosing Credit/No Credit had a negative impact for many students despite having time to consult with advisors and faculty and may create educational inequities in progress towards degree; therefore be it

Resolved: That SJSU should, so far as is legally possible, convert all WU grades in Fall 2020 to W grades; and be it

Resolved: That SJSU should, so far as is legally possible, consider converting all F grades in Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 to No Credit.

Approved by I&SA: November 30, 2020

(Note: This approval was for the Whereas Clauses)

Vote: 14-0-0

Present: Chuang, French, Gomez Marcelino, Hill, Jackson (non-voting), Khan, Lee, Leisenring (non-voting), Rao, Sen, Sullivan-Green, Walker, Wilson, Wolcott, Yang, Yao

Absent: Delgadillo, Sorkhabi, Walters

Approved by the Academic Senate: December 7, 2020

(Note: This approval includes the Whereas Clauses and the two Resolved clauses, created and amended on the senate floor)

Vote: 35-8-1

Financial impact: Some resources may be needed to provide additional support for support staff, advisors and faculty.

Workload impact: There would be additional workload from support staff and advisors to serve students and train faculty.