



December 12th, 2025

TO: Kenneth N. Barish, Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division

FROM: Harry Tom, Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

SUBJECT: [Campus Review] Regulation Change: 3rd Round Part 2 - UCR Regulation 1- Grading System

Prof. Barish,

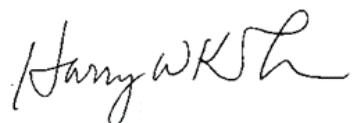
The CNAS Faculty Executive Committee has reviewed the regulation changes (3rd round, part 2) to UCR Regulation 1 - Grading System at their December 3rd meeting and had comments to provide to the Senate.

The committee has raised concerns about proposed section 01.01.01.02 as it does not provide clarity in the situation when a student who registers under an approved Grade Delay (GD) then subsequently receives a non-passing grade prior to the end of the 2nd week of the quarter. The committee would like to propose that this section specify that students may be dropped up through the second week if a GD becomes a non-passing grade. Our understanding is that the computer system(s) currently in place can drop students if the non-passing grade was in a prerequisite course. This is important because there may be waitlisted students who can take the seat within the first 2 weeks.

This begs the question, what happens if a GD leads to a non-passing grade is received after week 2 and a passing grade is required as a prerequisite for the class. The current computer system is not set up to flag this throughout the quarter, and the student will finish the class (motivated perhaps by the unit requirements for financial aid), but then have to repeat the prerequisite course at a later time, which might only be flagged during the final degree check. This will lead to students requesting waivers based on having passed the more advanced course, or for petitions for late withdrawals after failing the course based on not completing the prerequisite. While there are compelling reasons to allow students to keep their financial aid and forward progress toward a degree, we are setting students up for academic failure and undermining our prerequisite course requirements. It might be better to also allow students to "drop" rather than withdraw (with a W on the transcript) from the course in this situation. It seems bad practice for the student to be advised to try to pass the course, and then repeat the prerequisite later as a "hurdle" to graduation rather than encouraging students to strive for academic success and better understanding of the course material by completing the prerequisites.

The committee would also like the wording in section 01.01.04 that reads "From the third through sixth full week of instruction, undergraduate students may drop a course...." changed to read "...may withdraw from a course."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry W. Tom".

Harry Tom, Ph.D.
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences