*The Senate Committee on Educational Policy considers the information in EP.21.132 (Report Academic Standing Planning Meeting, April 7, 2021) regarding the impact of academic policy modifications due to the COVID-19 pandemic to be timely and informative. The Committee strongly suggests the Senate view the findings.*

**Academic Standing Planning Meeting**

April 7, 2021

*In attendance: Gretchen Adams, AHS; Anna Ball, ACES; Jan Carter-Black, SSW; Katie Clark, MDIA; Mary Edwards, FAA; Zelda Gardner, FAA; Barbara Hancin-Bhatt, LAS; Meghan Hazen, Office of the Registrar; Rod Hoewing, Office of the Registrar; Kevin Jackson, Gies; Kristi Kuntz, OVCAA & Provost; Jonathan Makela, Grainger; Dan Mann, OVCAA & Provost; Kathy Martensen, OVCAA & Provost; Allison McKinney, Grad College; Melissa Newell, iSchool; Cory Ohms, ACES; Kathy Ryan, EDUC; Bob Steltman, LAS; Cory Thoss, Gies; Dan Turner, Grainger; Ashley Whitley, Office of the Registrar*

**Concerns:**

- We'll need to educate students/communicate clearly what the policies really are along with what to expect for the fall.
- Are we carefully considering policies we might want to change longer-term rather than sticking with the status quo, e.g., the drop deadline? Need to do this thru an equity and access lens.
- Some students are already asking about underloads for fall (e.g., think about international students), what will the impact be on fin aid/will there be any flexibility?
- Students who "missed out" on the opportunity to study abroad are making plans to do this in the semester before they'd graduate. Meghan noted this will cause issues for degree certification.

**What would be helpful?**

- Comparison data for advising purposes, not to make academic standing decisions (holds, sequential courses), seeing what the grades were before they switched to PZ/NZ.
- Rod can run the "C- and lower" report, this can likely be available the week of June 11 to share with colleges, who can reach back out to students.
- Convert the Fs to NZs earlier – this is for undergrads only.
- Make a connection to find out which students receive veterans benefits to try to be proactive about the impact choosing PZ/NZ might have. After checking w/ OSFA, they cannot share a list; however, they did send the email included as a second attachment here to this population of students. I've asked if it is possible to send a follow up closer to end of semester specifically warning them about the "sweep" of Fs to NZs for undergrads and encouraging them to connect with their college office if they wish to reverse this.

**What was beneficial the past couple of semesters?**

- Rod's reports that were sent this time – will be sent again.

- iSchool held info sessions about the process, what to expect, then Melissa had one-on-one appointments with those students who wanted to address individual concerns.
- Gies had discussions about what really are our policies? Where is this documented? What are we looking for in petitions, does that make sense?
- LAS did extra communication, constant contact type model, around policies, mid-term grades, outreach specifically to students with NCs. Will continue this practice.
- LAS notes in using chat feature, 2-3 p.m., especially Mondays, highest traffic.

**Supporting communication across academic units, to students:**

- PZ/NZ form will be in the same place on OR's website where the CR/NC form was with a link in the main resources site. This version of the form will be much clearer for students/more user-friendly. OR will send the links to college contacts when this is ready, asking colleges to get the word out to students.
- Add a listing on the Changing Majors page of which programs are going to require letter grades. As of today:

  Will accept PZ (Pass-COVID) for ICT:

  ACES[1]
  AHS
  EDUC
  FAA
  Gies[2]
  Grainger[2]
  MDIA
  Pre-Engineering (PREP)[2]

  Will accept but letter grades recommended:
  iSchool
  LAS[3]

  [1]the major in Agricultural and Consumer Economics requires ACE 100 or ECON 102 and at least one of the two Quantitative Reasoning I courses for letter grades; PZs will not be accepted. The majors in Computer Science + Animal Science and in Computer Science + Crop Sciences will require letter grades in the required courses listed on the changing majors site.
  [2]while PZs will be accepted, letter grades that demonstrate strong performance will be looked upon favorably.
  [3]letter grade will be required when a specific course with a specific grade is required for transfer.

*Examples of ICT messaging sent out via ADVIS-L:*

**Thinking about PZ/NZ for Spring 2021?**
**Potential Impact on Changing Majors for The Grainger College of Engineering**

The election of the PZ/NZ grade mode for Spring 2021 does not eliminate the possibility of ICT/IDT to majors in The Grainger College of Engineering. However, it may negatively impact a student's ability to successfully transfer. When reviewing applications, we rely on obtaining as much information as possible about a student's potential for success in the program, including overall GPA and earned grades in prerequisite and technical courses.

Students interested in an ICT/IDT to majors in Grainger Engineering are advised to take the following into account before electing PZ/NZ for courses (especially prerequisite and technical courses) taken in Spring 2021:

- The PZ/NZ grade mode removes information about how well students performed in Spring 2021 courses.
- Earned grades of "As" and "Bs" will be viewed more positively than grades of "PZ" for courses taken in Spring 2021, given "PZ" will be awarded for all grades between "D-" and "A+."
- Grainger Engineering will not accommodate any method of grade reporting other than the student's official grade history.
- Go to https://go.grainger.illinois.edu/SP2021 for additional PZ/NZ considerations.

*Revised March 30, 2021*

**Gies College of Business ICT and PZ/NZ credit**

For Gies ICT admission consideration, applicants should consider the following:

- Spring 2021 college credit that is earned through "PZ" will be viewed similarly to credit earned through other avenues (AP or IB test scores, proficiency exams, etc.)

- The College will continue to use a holistic approach to admission application review, using the factors as noted on the Gies ICT information page.

- The admission review committee looks at individual coursework and corresponding grades or credit as presented, not GPA specifically. "PZ" may allow for students to receive a high overall GPA for the semester; however, GPAs are not a primary factor in the admission review process.

- While applicants will not be penalized for choosing "PZ", earned letter grades that demonstrate strong performance (i.e., As and Bs) will be looked upon favorably and could help strengthen a student's application.

- Students will want to consider if an earned letter grade demonstrates stronger competency than "PZ", given that a D- grade is all that is needed to earn PZ credit for Spring 2021. Applicants are strongly encouraged to talk with their academic advisor prior to making a final decision about the PZ/NZ option for course credit this spring.