

Resolution #:005

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Sponsored By: Isaiah Ball

Approval Date:

Purpose: To encourage continued compassion and support for CI students amid COVID-19 and virtual instruction.

IN THE SENATE OF CSUCI STUDENT GOVERNMENT

November 18th, 2020

Senator Bernal and Senator Tolteca (for themselves) introduces the following legislation

Resolution

Whereas, an entity of Associated Students Incorporated of California State University Channel Islands, Incorporated (ASI), Student Government is the recognized representative voice of the CI student body. As reflected in our mission statement, we serve, represent, and advocate for the students of CI; and

Whereas, on May 12, 2020, Chancellor Timothy White announced that all California State Universities would approach primarily virtual instruction with limited exceptions for in-person contact for activities that cannot be conducted virtually¹; and

Whereas, on September 10, 2020, Chancellor Timothy White announced that all California State Universities would continue with a primarily virtual approach for the Spring 2021 term²; and

Whereas, students have faced several direct and indirect economic challenges, such as loss of employment, financial stability, or guardians who have experienced a decline or loss of income due to the closure of non-essential businesses; and,

Whereas, emergency conditions surrounding the pandemic have caused social and psychological stress which has hindered students' abilities to engage and learn in a virtual setting; and

Whereas, students at CI have faced several challenges during virtual instruction due to environments that are not suitable for college-level learning such as lack of access to stable internet and proper technology, sharing personal spaces with children, siblings and parents who

¹ <https://www.csuci.edu/news/campus-updates/fall-2020/2020-09-10-message-from-chancellor-white-jan-2021.htm>

² Ibid.

are working from home, and who are responsible for serving as caretakers of family who are sick or susceptible to COVID-19; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that Student Government strongly encourages the academic senate to reinstate Credit/No Credit grading policies and the extension of drop deadlines for the academic year 2020- 2021 and any subsequent semesters where instruction is primarily virtual; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Student Government strongly recommends that the Academic Senate include in these changes to Credit/No Credit grading policies that a “C-” count as credit where applicable, and that program chairs and departments will list courses required in their undergraduate major(s) that SHALL NOT satisfy a major requirement if taken for Credit/No Credit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Student Government strongly recommends that Students shall be given the ability to change their grading option from letter grade to Credit/No Credit through the last day of the semester and Students who receive “F” or “WU” grades will automatically have their grades converted to “NC” grades; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Student Government strongly recommends that Students are able to withdraw from any course through the last day of the semester, and that term withdrawals will be accepted up to 15 days after the end of the semester. No faculty or chair signatures will be required for withdrawing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Students planning to pursue graduate or professional school in the future should seek advice from faculty in their discipline before making choices about grading options and be informed of potential negative impacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Student Services offices that advocate for students as related to grades (e.g. Academic Advising, Veterans Affairs Program, Financial Aid) shall proactively give students guidance on their choice of grading option and inform them of any potential negative impacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Student Government shall continue to facilitate, promote, and advocate for a safe and comfortable virtual learning environment for the student body and rest of the campus community.