

Brothers, Sheila C

From: Jones, Davy
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2010 10:49 AM
To: Badger, Karen; Grossman, Robert B; Blonder, Lee; Wood, Connie; Gesund, Hans; Kelly, Thomas; Pienkowski, David; Hager, Jacquie
Cc: Brothers, Sheila C
Subject: New Rule Language for Grade of UI

Sheila,

The Senate Council has approved in concept the adoption of a new grade "UI," to go along with the current grade of interim satisfactor ("SI") for courses such as credit-bearing seminars, independent work courses, or research course is the course extends beyond the normal limits of a semester or summer term. When the Senate in 2006 created the "SI" grade, it did not create a grade that applies to the courses to which SI applies, but which represents unsatisfactory progress. Although the current definition of the SI grade does not state whether the student is making satisfactory progress, many students or other persons observing the "SI" grade on the transcript, may interpret or assume the "S" part of the "SI" grade to mean that the student's academic performance has been graded as satisfactory. The Senate Council deemed it important educational policy for instructors (often research advisors) to be able to confer a interim grade that shows a student's academic performance has not been satisfactory.

The Senate Council sent the problem to the Senate Rules and Elections Committee to devise the appropriate language to establish a grade for these kinds of courses shows a meaning of unsatisfactory academic performance. Please find below the requested language for the Senate Rules.

UI _____ Represents an interim grade in credit-bearing seminars, independent work courses, or research courses if these courses extend beyond the normal limits of a semester or summer term. This grade signifies that the quality or the quantity of the student's academic work was unsatisfactory during the applicable term. All UI grades must be replaced by a regular final letter grade prior to the Qualifying Examination or Final Examination for doctoral students or prior to graduation in all other cases (see Section 5.1.3.3). As a temporary mark, UI carries no credit hours or quality points.

SI _____ Represents an interim grade in credit-bearing seminars, independent work courses, or research courses if these courses extend beyond the normal limits of a semester or summer term. This grade signifies that both the quality and quantity of the student's academic work were satisfactory during the applicable term. All SI grades must be replaced by a regular final letter grade prior to the Qualifying Examination or Final Examination for doctoral students or prior to graduation in all other cases (see Section 5.1.3.3). As a temporary mark, SI carries no credit hours or quality points. [US: 4/10/06]

Jacquie, in order for this new grade to be programmed into the system for use in Fall 2010, does it need to be passed by the May Senate meeting, or will the September Senate meeting do ... i.e., action at today's Senate Council meeting to put on the May Senate meeting agenda?

If I might also make a suggestion to the Senate Rules and Elections Committee, the section 5.1.1 of the Senate Rules ("General Grading System") into which these provisions will go is not consistent in how it phrases the academic effort of the student for which the various grades are awarded. These

academic efforts are variously referred by such phrases as "represents unsatisfactory achievement", "represents unsatisfactory performance," and "represents ... unsatisfactory work." I suggest that the SREC propose a more unified nomenclature, so that there might not be a suggestion that the Rules intend some difference in meaning among "achievement", "performance" and "work." However, I do not see that the adoption of the above new grade needs to wait on the more general issue of a unified nomenclature.

Davy

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Davy Jones, Chair

Senate Rules and Elections Committee