



**NDSA-07-2021**

## **A Resolution in Support of Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Grading**

**WHEREAS**, the North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) represents the voice of North Dakota's 45,000 public college and university students; and,

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of NDSA is to represent all students enrolled in the North Dakota University System (NDUS) and advocate on issues of higher education in support of access, affordability, quality, and the student experience; and,

**WHEREAS**, students have experienced a wide variety of instruction models and circumstances due to the ongoing pandemic that has resulted in a lack of stability and structure; and

**WHEREAS**, courses switching to online-only may require students to adjust their educational schedules and affect their performance; and

**WHEREAS**, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may be placing extra stressors on students including testing positive for the virus, being a close contact, uncertainty with work, familial issues, lack of proper remote study materials, and many others; and

**WHEREAS**, the added physical and emotional stressors on a student, whether it be change in the instruction model, financial concerns, required temporary relocation of housing, or worry of COVID-19 in regard to the individual or their family may negatively impact the work of the student; and

**WHEREAS**, every student learns in a different fashion and requires different levels of engagement with instruction, and classes that are solely online or available via hybrid learning may not offer the best engagement for students, thus resulting in altered performance; and

**WHEREAS**, a student's negatively impacted academic performance caused by factors and stressors of COVID-19 may result in them considering resignation from their institution; and

**WHEREAS**, several NDUS institutions implemented optional expanded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading after the transition to remote learning in the Spring and Fall 2020 semesters due to the rise of COVID-19;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the North Dakota Student Association supports instituting expanded options for Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading, that includes but is not limited to:

- Providing students with the opportunity to switch their classes to S/U grading up until the deadline determined by the institution
- Students of any academic level are allowed to opt into S/U grading
- Students are allowed to opt into S/U grading for courses in their major or minor



**BE IT FURTHER MOVED**, the NDSA recognizes that certain programs such as medicine, law, graduate studies, etc. may be unable to adopt this policy, and

**BE IT FURTHER MOVED**, that the NDSA supports the decision reached by each individual institution regarding the adoption or application of this policy.

*Approved by the NDSA General Assembly on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020.*