March 25, 2020

RE: Grading Accommodations for Spring 2020

Dear Students,

Effective for the Spring 2020 semester only, students may elect to change any full-semester or second seven-week, letter-graded courses to pass/fail, including major and minor requirements. This option will go into effect after final grades have been officially posted to the Globe. Detailed instructions on how to make these requests, as well as a specific deadline to make such changes, will be released at a later date.

As you consider this option, please keep in mind that ‘P’ grades are not calculated in to semester or cumulative GPAs, but they will count towards earned semester hours and will fulfill the requirements they were intended to, whether it be towards the major, minor, or core curriculum. If a final grade of ‘F’ is earned, students will not have the option to change that grade to pass/fail. Regardless of the grading scale, ‘F’ grades are calculated the same and result in a 0.0 being entered towards the semester and cumulative GPAs. This emergency grading accommodation only applies to passing grades. For example, a ‘D’ may be changed to a ‘P’ upon request. Most students should only consider this option for final grades of ‘C’ or below. Students concerned about failing a course should consider withdrawing from the course. The withdrawal deadline has been extended to the end of the semester, Friday, May 8.

When considering these options, we highly recommend that you seek advice from your faculty advisors to ensure you are making informed decisions. Furthermore, any student currently enrolled in the Inclusive Childhood Education program, or who intends to enroll in the program, must consult with education program coordinator Susan Wansor before declaring any course pass/fail.

Additionally, this decision could have very serious implications on your future academic careers at Wells and beyond. Please be sure to note the following consequences this may have:

- Colleges and universities may not accept courses taken pass/fail, which could hinder any student who may decide to transfer and could impact students who wish to use certain courses as prerequisites for graduate school or certificate programs.

- A decision to change letter-graded courses to pass/fail may also impact the following:
  - Academic standing
  - Dean’s list
o Distinction in the major
o Financial aid eligibility
o Scholarship opportunities

To reiterate, we will not be accepting any decisions at this time. A decision to change a grade to pass/fail can only be made after final grades have been officially posted on the Globe. We will send out further instructions, with definitive deadlines, as we approach the end of the semester. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding these grading accommodations, please email them directly to me.

Thank you!

Paul Applebee
Registrar and Director of Institutional Research