



ACADEMIC COUNCIL – Special Meeting
Friday, March 27, 2020
10:00 - 11:00 a.m., [Video Conference](#) Only

AGENDA	Suggested Start Time
1. Call to Order	10:00 a.m.
2. Agenda (M)	
3. Chair’s Remarks	
4. Provost’s Remarks	10:10 a.m.
5. Temporary Amendment to University Grading Policy* (M)	10:15 a.m.
6. Termination (M)	11:00 a.m.

Becky Dinwoodie, Secretary

ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

SESSION:

Public

ACTION REQUESTED:

Decision
 Discussion/Direction
 Information

TO: Academic Council (AC)

DATE: March 27, 2020

PRESENTED BY: Lori Livingston, Provost and VP Academic

SUBJECT: Temporary Amendment to University’s Grading Policy

AC MANDATE:

- In accordance with By-law No. 2, AC has the authority to establish the academic standards and curricular policies of the university and to regulate such standards, policies and procedures.
- We are seeking Academic Council’s approval to temporarily amend the university’s grading policy to accommodate for the shift to online learning during the unprecedented circumstances during the Winter Term 2020.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

- We have heard from many students and staff about the comparability of final grades for winter 2020 to other terms.
- To ensure academic quality and student success, as well as to help alleviate the stress that both staff and students are experiencing, we are asking Academic Council to alter the Ontario Tech grading policy which states: “Final grades for all courses will be submitted to the Office of the Registrar on a letter grade scale. Credit will be granted for only those courses completed with a grade of D or better. Faculties may require higher grades in some courses to meet degree requirements. See the faculty section of the academic calendar for more information.”
- The decision to allow this flexibility is a direct acknowledgement of this unprecedented situation.
- Once students receive their final grades, which are expected to be released to students by May 1, those who received a grade of D or better in a course may choose to either (a) accept their letter grade and have that letter grade appear on their transcript, or (b) have that letter grade converted to a “PAS”. Students will

have until May 6 to indicate their choice to the Registrar's Office through an online submission process. More details on this process will be made available shortly. It is important to note that this will be a manual back-office task.

- Students should be aware that moving to a PAS may slow the speed at which they may register in future courses that have the course as a pre- or co-requisite. At this time they will require a manual over-ride.
- This nuanced approach will help students who need their grades for advanced placements or applications for further studies, while recognizing that their performance may have been affected by difficult circumstances.
- We trust our students will continue to apply themselves academically and seek the most from their courses and will act with integrity as they complete their course work and assessments in a remote learning environment.

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

That Academic Council hereby approves the following temporary amendment to the university's grading policy, as follows:

- *offer our students the choice of either accepting their final course grade OR credit recognition (PAS) as per our grading protocol for **Winter 2020 term only**;*
- *for undergraduate students, credit recognition (PAS) must meet the faculty minimum for degree requirements;*
- *for graduate students, a B- or better will be required to qualify for credit; and*
- *all "F" grades will automatically be given a retroactive withdrawal and students will receive a "W" notation on their transcript.*

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- none