RIT Graduate Council
25 October 2013

Proposal: R/U/I Grades

Synopsis: Allow the current Registered (R) grade option courses to have additional Unsatisfactory (U) and Incomplete (I) grade options.

Approved 10/25/13 (In Favor: 14, Opposed: 1, Abstain: 0)

Statement of Need
Currently, graduate students registered for Graduate Research & Thesis receive a Registered (R) grade at the end of the semester. The R grade indicates that the student was registered for Graduate Research and Thesis but has not met the total requirements of the course. In this case, the total requirements are met when the student has his or her thesis or dissertation approved/accepted. The R grade does not convey any information on a student’s research effort, and implies that the student is making satisfactory progress towards a thesis or dissertation. Occasionally, a graduate student will not put any effort into Research & Thesis one semester, and the system rewards him or her with an R. In addition to rewarding a student for no effort, the R grade can put an added financial burden on faculty member’s grant or an RIT budget as the student will take longer to successfully defend. Graduate faculty have requested a mechanism for dealing with non-performing graduate students that lessens the financial burden. The intent is not to penalize students whose science or project is not working, but to send a message to students who are not putting in effort.

Current Policy (D05.0 II B)

Registered - a permanent grade used in graduate coursework indicating that a student has registered for a given course but has yet to meet the total requirements for the course or has continuing requirements to be met. The grade is given in graduate thesis work. Completion of this work will be noted by having the approved/accepted thesis or dissertation title, as received by the registrar from the department, added to the student's permanent record. Full tuition is charged for these courses. "R" graded courses are allowed in the calculation of the residency requirement for graduate programs; however, they do not affect GPA calculations.

Incomplete - When an instructor observes conditions beyond the control of a student such that the student is unable to complete course requirements in the given term or session, the instructor may assign an Incomplete notation (“I”) to a student. The instructor determines and advises the student of the due date, not to exceed two terms including summer session but excluding intersession, by which the student must complete course requirements. If the registrar has not received a "Change of Grade" form from the professor after two terms including summer session but excluding intersession, then the Incomplete becomes an "F" grade. An extension of time may be granted at the discretion of the instructor. Credit hours are not earned and the GPA is not affected until a permanent grade is assigned.

If there are extenuating circumstances which render an instructor unable to assign a grade or evaluate a student's work and assign a grade to replace an "Incomplete" notation, the head of the academic unit in which the course was taught will select an instructor to act in the place of the original instructor. After appropriate evaluation of the student's work, that instructor will assign a grade in place of the "Incomplete" notation.

Proposal
Research advisers would like the option to issue Unsatisfactory (U) and Incomplete (I) grades in Research & Thesis courses currently receiving only R grades. The U grade would mean that the student made
unsatisfactory progress on the credits attempted that semester. Reporting an I implies the adviser believes
the student did not completed the requirements needed to receive an R that semester due to conditions
beyond the control of the student. An I grade in Research & Thesis course will change to a U if the
conditions placed on receipt of the I have not been met in the period specified by the adviser, or two
semesters have passed. Because the R grade carries no quality points, the U grade in Research & Thesis
will not influence a student’s GPA.

**Proposed Policy (D05.0 II B)** [added wording is underlined]

**Registered** - a permanent grade used in graduate coursework indicating that a student has registered for
a given course but has yet to meet the total requirements for the course or has continuing requirements to
be met. The grade is given in graduate thesis work. Completion of this work will be noted by having the
approved/accepted thesis or dissertation title, as received by the registrar from the department, added to
the student's permanent record. Full tuition is charged for these courses. "R" graded courses are allowed
in the calculation of the residency requirement for graduate programs; however, they do not affect GPA
calculations. A student may receive a grade of “U” or “I” in a given term of an R graded course. A “U”
grade in this case carries no credit and the course must be repeated.

**Incomplete** - When an instructor observes conditions beyond the control of a student such that the student
is unable to complete course requirements in the given term or session, the instructor may assign an
Incomplete notation (“I”) to a student. The instructor determines and advises the student of the due date,
not to exceed two terms including summer session but excluding intersession, by which the student must
complete course requirements. If the registrar has not received a "Change of Grade" form from the
professor after two terms including summer session but excluding intersession, then the Incomplete
becomes an "F" grade, or a “U” grade if the “I” was associated with an “R” or “S” graded graduate
course. An extension of time may be granted at the discretion of the instructor. Credit hours are not
earned and the GPA is not affected until a permanent grade is assigned.

If there are extenuating circumstances which render an instructor unable to assign a grade or evaluate a
student's work and assign a grade to replace an "Incomplete" notation, the head of the academic unit in
which the course was taught will select an instructor to act in the place of the original instructor. After
appropriate evaluation of the student's work, that instructor will assign a grade in place of the
"Incomplete" notation.

**Unsatisfactory (graduate)** - a permanent grade used in certain graduate course work indicating that a
student made unsatisfactory progress towards completing the course requirements. No credit hours are
earned for a “U” grade and the “U” grade does not affect the calculation of quality points or GPA. A
“U” grade in an “R” or “S” graded course carries no credit and the course must be repeated.