Proposal: S/U/I Grades

Synopsis: To allow the Satisfactory (S) grade option at the graduate level in Graduate Seminar courses.

Approved 10/25/13 (In Favor: 15, Opposed: 0, Abstain: 0)

Statement of Need
In graduate seminar, students attend and participate in seminars typically presented by external speakers. These seminars are an important part of a graduate student’s experience as they expose the student to a range of ideas and knowledge broader than the current faculty’s. Student participation in some graduate seminar courses does not warrant traditional A, B, C, D letter grades, and faculty would like a mechanism to indicate that the student has participated in the activities. A satisfactory/unsatisfactory grading option would be perfect for this type of course.

Current Policy (D05.0 II B)
Satisfactory - A satisfactory grade may only apply to acceptable completion of cooperative work experience, internships, courses bearing course numbers of 099 or below, and study abroad courses offered by affiliated programs. With the exception of study abroad, such courses do not count toward residency requirements, earn credit hours or affect grade point average calculations. In the case of study abroad courses, credits covered by the "S" grade will count toward residency requirements and will earn credit hours. The "S" grade will not affect grade point average.

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
The satisfactory grade should be established at the graduate level for use in certain courses such as graduate seminar. This proposal does not require that all graduate seminar courses be graded with an S, but rather gives the option to the graduate program. The S grade carries no quality points. A student failing to satisfy the requirements for an S graded course may receive a grade of U, or I in the case of extenuating circumstances. The U grade carries no credit and the course must be repeated. An I grade in an S/U/I course which is not removed in the agreed upon time period turns into a U.
Proposed Policy (D05.0 II B)  [added wording is underlined]

**Satisfactory (undergraduate)** - A satisfactory grade may only apply to acceptable completion of cooperative work experience, internships, courses bearing course numbers of 099 or below, and study abroad courses offered by affiliated programs. With the exception of study abroad, such courses do not count toward residency requirements, earn credit hours or affect grade point average calculations. In the case of study abroad courses, credits covered by the "S" grade will count toward residency requirements and will earn credit hours. The "S" grade will not affect grade point average.

**Satisfactory (graduate)** - A satisfactory grade at the graduate level may only apply to seminar courses where programs have determined that a traditional “A”, “B”, “C”, “D” letter grade is inappropriate. An “S” grade at the graduate level carries no quality points and therefore does not enter into a GPA calculation. A student may receive a grade of “U” or “I” in an S graded course. In this case, a “U” grade carries no credit and the course must be repeated. No more than 10% of a program’s degree credits may be “S” graded courses. The College’s Curriculum Committee must approve the use of an “S” grade in a course.

**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 coursework 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.