Grading and Convocation Update

In response to the extraordinary circumstances resulting from COVID-19, your professors have approved some changes to our usual grading and convocation systems. Although the details regarding implementation are still being worked out and will be shared by April 3, we want you to know the big-picture perspective now.

Grading System Adaptation for Spring 2020

Students will now have until the last day of classes to choose to be graded in any of their classes on a P/D/U basis.

The default is that students will receive a grade of A through U, unless they opt to switch to the P/D/U grading system. Course normally graded P/U will remain the same. Details about how to make these requests are still being determined and will be announced by April 3.

For courses taken on a P/D/U basis, faculty will submit a letter grade for each student and the Registrar will convert grades of A to C- to a grade of P; grades of D and U would be recorded as D and U, respectively.

Courses selected for P/D/U grading this term will not count toward the existing limit on courses taken on a P/D/U basis. Courses already elected to be taken on a P/D/U in Spring 2020 will not count towards the existing limit on courses taken on a P/D/U basis.

Usually, just elective and minor courses can be taken on a P/D/U basis. For Spring 2020, all courses, including major courses and general education courses, may be taken on a P/D/U basis.

A decision to opt-in to P/D/U grades should be made carefully and after consulting your advisor because of the potential implications for post-graduate work and study, honors, gpa outcomes, and more. After Spring Break wraps, we'll be ready to work with you in thinking through those decisions.

The Registrar will send out information about how to make these requests by April 3.

Convocation System Adaptation for Spring 2020

We are reducing the number of events needed to complete the convocation requirement. All students who have already attended three or more convocations will earn an A for CON 001.

Students who have attended fewer than three convocations will be provided with alternative assignments to finish a total of three convocations. Students who do not finish the alternative assignments will earn a grade of U. The implementation details are still being developed and will be shared by April 3.

We'll be sure to provide more details soon to answer any questions this message may stir up.

In the meantime, I hope you and yours are well and safe.

Best wishes,
Alex McAllister