

Subject: Extension of Drop/Add to Fourteenth Week for Fall 2020 Undergraduate Students

Rationale: During Spring Semester 2020, the mid-semester Covid-19 driven closure of Lehigh's campus combined with the rapid transition to online learning led to great confusion and stress among our students. As part of the University's response, the Provost – with the support of the Educational Policy and Executive Committees – enacted the CR/DCR/NCR grading option for Spring Semester 2020. Faculty have heard that students are feeling similar pressures and stresses around grades in the Fall 2020 semester as well.

The Educational Policy Committee considered several proposals for dealing with student stress concerning grades. However, rather than reinstate the CR/DCR/NCR option, there seemed to be more support for modifying existing procedures to meet students' concerns. These procedures include the option to extend the last day for Drop/Add (R&P 3.8.4) to the end of the fourteenth week instead of the current R&P requirement to submit Drop/Add requests by the end of the eleventh week. Other possibilities are to revise Pass/Fail or modify the CR/DCR/NCR option. The Senate will discuss these options during our November 6th meeting.

Because the current last day for Drop/Add is the end of the eleventh week, November 6th, if a modification of Drop/Add is to be made, the change must be made immediately. Any delay in announcing the revised final day for requesting Drop/Add will result in students dropping courses that they may not have dropped if they had known that they had until the end of the fourteenth week. In addition, we want to allow enough time for students to consult with their advisors.

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (under the authority granted in R&P 1.2.3.2) approved the following temporary – Fall Semester 2020 only – modification to R&P 3.8.4. New text in **red**.

Modify R&P 3.8.4 Drop/Add Period

A withdrawal from a course within the first ten days of instruction is not recorded on the student's record.

A student wishing to withdraw from a course after the tenth day, but not after the ~~eleventh~~ **fourteenth** week of instruction, must follow the procedure set up by the registrar and notify both the advisor and course instructor.

A student who officially withdraws from the university or a course after the tenth day of classes through the ~~eleventh~~ **fourteenth** week of instruction receives grades of W in the course(s) for which he or she is registered. After the ~~eleventh~~ **fourteenth** week of instruction, no grade of W may be given.

A student who reduces his or her course load below the minimum required for standing as a full-time student but does not withdraw from the university, becomes a part-time student for the rest of that semester.

Some areas affected by part-time status are financial aid, athletic eligibility, veteran's affairs, selective service, and immigration status.

A student may add any course through the fifth day of the semester. From the sixth to the tenth day of the semester, students wishing to add a course must follow the procedure set up by the registrar, obtaining the permission of the course instructor and notifying the advisor.

After the tenth day of the semester, students must petition the Committee on the Standing of Students to add a course.