**Proposed Changes R&P Sec. 3.27.1 Definition of Grades**

**Rationale**:

The current definition of grades for graduate students states that grades are defined as they are for undergraduates with a few exceptions, one of which being pass-fail registration is not allowed for graduate students.

While we do not want to propose that the student optional pass-fail registration system be put in place for graduate students (see R&P section 3.3), we would like to propose that graduate courses can be created or rostered with a pass-fail grading system when appropriate. Pass-fail grading would be useful for tracking a graduate student’s fulfillment of academic requirements that fall outside of core coursework or research. It also allows for these requirements to appear on the formal transcript. Allowing pass-fail grading would reduce the possibility of GPA inflation in cases where a graduate student is required to register for a course in multiple terms, such as a seminar course.

Any new course created with such a grading system in place would need to be approved through the proper approval path, as it is now, with rationale included. Changes to existing courses in order to allow for pass-fail grading should also be reviewed using the current approval system to ensure the appropriateness of the change.

**Sec. 3.27.1 Definition of Grades**

*Current Language:*

Course grades are defined as in section 3.8.1 except that no grade lower than C- may be counted toward a graduate degree, pass-fail registration is not allowed for graduate students, and grades are not reported for dissertation registration. No student who receives more than four grades below a B- in courses numbered 200 or higher is allowed to continue registration as a graduate student. Individual degree programs may impose higher standards.

*Proposed Language:*

Course grades are defined as in section 3.8.1 with the following exceptions: no grade lower than C- may be counted toward a graduate degree and grades are not reported for dissertation registration. A Pass/Fail grading system may be designated by the department at the time a course is added to or modified in the course catalog. In such cases the Pass/Fail grading system will apply to all students enrolled in the course. Students may not independently elect to take a course as Pass/Fail. A grade of P may be credited towards a graduate degree within the limitations of program requirements. Pass/Fail courses are not included in the graduate GPA calculation. No student who receives more than four grades below a B- in courses numbered 200 or higher, with the exception of Pass/Fail courses, is allowed to continue registration as a graduate student. Individual degree programs may impose higher standards.