



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–LA CROSSE  
**STUDENT ASSOCIATION**  
2244 THE U 1705 BADGER STREET LA CROSSE, WI 54601 (608) 785-8775

**SA1920-053: Resolution in Support of “Option B” in the Grading Policy**

DATE: April 5, 2020

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WHEREAS COVID-19 virus has spread throughout the world and was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS all UWL classes have moved online for the rest of the semester to decrease the spread of the virus and increase safety among students and faculty; and

WHEREAS many students face barriers to online learning including financial challenges, family situations, and access issues; and

WHEREAS students living in these circumstances deserve the opportunity to have a safety net if classes do not go as planned; and

WHEREAS Provost Morgan, Registrar Von Ruden, and Associate Vice Chancellor Grunwald have provided 2 options for the UWL grading policy:

OPTION A: The University of Wisconsin- La Crosse will remain with its current letter grading system for the Spring 2020 semester.

OPTION B: The University of Wisconsin - La Crosse instructors will provide letter grades using the current grading scheme. In addition, the option of 2 grades will be added to the current scheme - S (Satisfactory), U (Unsatisfactory) for Spring 2020 only.

Students must request (see below) in order to receive a S/U grade for a course after grades have been recorded. Student requests are only considered if extraordinary circumstances can be articulated by the student and supported by the instructor and one additional UWL staff member.

WHEREAS it is not clear how Option B applies to graduate students; and

WHEREAS Option B would improve retention by providing a safety net to many students who are struggling with the transition to online classes, while also encouraging students to maintain motivation and use the traditional letter grades; and



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WHEREAS many other UW schools have moved towards a system like that of Option B after students voiced concern over completing classes online; and

WHEREAS many courses do not translate well online, making it more difficult to be successful than in a hands-on setting;

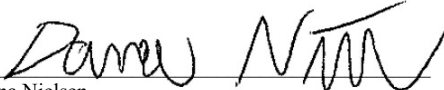
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED UWL Student Association supports Option B of the spring 2020 Academic Grading Policy;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED UWL Student Association recommends that Option B should be offered as an option for graduate students;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UWL Student Association recommends that Option B should not require the student to explain extraordinary circumstances, only COVID-19 disruption;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED UWL Student Association recommends that Option B require approval from either their instructor or a faculty/staff member who has served as a formal or informal advisor but not both in order to prevent students from feeling uncomfortable or compelled to share private information;

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED UWL Student Association will forward their final decision to CAPS committee for their meeting on Friday April 10, 2020.

  
Dana Nielsen  
President, Student Senate  
Vice President, Student Association

04-08-2020  
Date

  
Sita Agterberg  
President, Student Association

04-08-2020  
Date