

Faculty Senate of the University of Texas at El Paso

Minutes of the Special Online Meeting of March 28 – April 6, 2020

ITEM 1. In view of the need to adjust the academic procedures in the stay-at-home situation that necessitated the switch to online-only teaching, Faculty Senate (FS) President Sandor Dorgo called for a special online meeting to discuss two documents proposed by the FS Executive Council, a document “Temporary Academic Policy Changes Spring 2020” and a document “Proposed Procedures for S-U Grading Option Spring 2020”. On behalf of the Executive Council, he proposed a motion to approve both documents. Since these documents come from a standing committee, they did not require a second.

In lieu of the usual face-to-face discussion, Senators were requested to consult with the faculty and, if needed, to submit their suggestions and corrections to President Dorgo by March 3. Based on these suggestions and corrections, several clarifications and minor modifications were made to both documents. The modified documents were then emailed to members of the Faculty Senate for approval. Members were requested to send their voted by midday on April 6.

For online vote, a motion is approved if more than half of all the Senators – and there are 68 of them – vote For, i.e., we need 35 For votes for approval. Based on the vote, both documents were approved. For the “Temporary Academic Policy Changes Spring 2020” document, 57 votes were For, 1 was Against. For the “Proposed Procedures for S-U Grading Option Spring 2020” document, 56 votes were For, 2 were Against.

Please note that the actual approval is probably higher, since, to be on the cautious side, we only counted explicit Yes votes as For votes, email containing statements like “I’m supportive of these efforts” were not explicitly counted.