

Department Chairs, Associate Deans, and Deans,

As you may have already seen, Provost Lobo sent a response to the Student Senate yesterday (included at the bottom of this email) indicating that the university is upholding its November decision not to extend the pass/fail option. As a function of the conversations that took place, two critical issues were identified. We need your help in addressing them right away:

1. There is a perception among many faculty and students that cheating has been more prevalent this fall because of the shift to online assessment due to the pandemic.
2. There are concerns about grading policies for final exams and final grades (in particular, students were concerned about classes that grade on a curve or that distribute grades on a curve). The concerns about cheating make this issue particularly salient.

We ask that each School/College follow up on how they will address these concerns as the final exam period is upon us. Each School/College should share back to the Provost Office how the concerns are being addressed in their areas so we can help communicate on your behalf when asked.

Please know that I would be happy to help by engaging in conversations to provide more context as you consider possible strategies, and a small number of ideas are also suggested below in the letter.

Warmly,

Paige

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