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SB54-20/21: Resolution Encouraging a Complete Credit/Credit/No Credit Option for the Spring 2021 Semester

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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Encouraging a Complete Credit/Credit/No Credit Option for the Spring 2021**
3 **Semester**
4 **January 22nd, 2021**
5 **SB54-20/21**

6 **Authored by: Adrianna Medina, ASUM Senator; Vincent C. Tarallo, ASUM Senator;**
7

8 Whereas, Students at The University of Montana (UM) and Missoula College (MC) have been
9 negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions;

10
11 Whereas, UM has provided resources to students such as emergency grant funding, expanded
12 healthcare services, and digital events so students can stay connected;

13
14 Whereas, Such resources do not alleviate every effect, struggle, and disadvantage that the
15 COVID-19 pandemic has brought to students;

16
17 Whereas, The pandemic presents unprecedented uncertainty and disruption, especially in the
18 transition to virtual learning environments;

19
20 Whereas, Such disruptions are not conducive to a successful learning experience for all students
21 at UM;

22
23 Whereas, As a part of UM's COVID-19 mitigation strategy, students at UM and
24 MC are encouraged to use hybrid, remote, online, and other distanced learning methods;

25
26 Whereas, Distanced learning impacts accessibility to academic tools and resources critical to
27 student success;

28
29 Whereas, Studies have shown that hybrid, remote, or online learning hurts students' scores as
30 well as their mental health¹²³;

31
32 Whereas, Poor mental health affects students' learning and overall academic scoring⁴;

33
34 Whereas, The effects of the pandemic may have caused some students to end their college
35 careers prematurely, and sometimes permanently;

36
37 Whereas, This loss of students can drastically change the content and GPA of an entire student
38 body, skewing a university's academic results;

39 Whereas, Distance learning may present disproportionately more challenges for students with
40 disabilities⁵;

41
42 Whereas, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) students
43 are disproportionately more impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic due to
44 discrimination, healthcare and utilization, occupation, and housing⁶;

45

46 Whereas, Such discrimination should, at the very least, be compensated with a CCR/CR/NCR
47 option for the Spring 2021 semester for all students;

48
49 Whereas, in a letter to faculty senate, ASUM almost unanimously supported the adoption
50 of a CCR/CR/NCR option for the Fall 2020 semester;

51
52 Whereas, Students Grade Point Average (GPA) has reportedly increased since Fall 2018 per the
53 data given from the Office of the Registrar;

54
55 Whereras, Students GPA is not the sole indicator of student success;

56
57 Whereas, Students GPA does not indicate how deeply students mental health are impacted by the
58 COVID-19 pandemic;

59
60 Whereas, Students GPA does not highlight the struggles, disadvantages, and obstacles that
61 students grapple with, just to barely finish a semester during a world-wide pandemic;

62
63 Whereas, Students GPA does not highlight the massive changes in day to day activities that has
64 contributed to overall students mental instability;

65
66 Whereas, Students GPA does not highlight the massive changes in day to day activities that
67 contribute to an overall healthy collegiate experience;

68
69 Whereas, Students GPA does not guarantee the Spring 2021 semester will see the same increase
70 without a CCR/CR/NCR;

71
72 Whereas, The justification of the ASCRC and Grad Council's decision not to implement a
73 CCR/CR/NCR was "How to communicate this policy to students in an effective and equitable
74 manner, especially given that they are finished with exams and leaving campus tomorrow for an
75 extended break during which the deadline to request grade changes would pass, What to do about
76 inequity issues for those students who, in the past few weeks, either withdrew from classes or
77 changed their grade mode to credit/no credit without knowing that this policy would be
78 implemented, the heavy workload on staff at the Office of the Registrar and the effect that
79 would have on other activities in the office, potentially delaying degree awards and transcript
80 processing";

81
82 Whereas, ASCRC and Grad Council do not represent the UM student body, The Associated
83 Students at the University of Montana (ASUM) does;

84
85 Whereas, ASUM's response is a direct reflection of student needs for a CCR/CR/NCR option;

86
87 Whereas; Providing Complete Credit/Credit/No Credit (CCR/CR/NCR) options and/or other
88 binary grading options was an effective way to curtail negative educational impacts of remote
89 learning in Spring 2020;

90

91 Whereas, It is The Associated Students of the University of Montana's (ASUM) job to advocate
92 for students' academic success;

93
94 Whereas, Dismissing students concerns only perpetuates a system where students feel their
95 concerns are discredited, overlooked, and unimportant;

96
97 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That ASUM strongly encourages that UM and MC adopt a (CCR/
98 CR/NCR) option for the Spring 2021 semester;

99
100 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this resolution be forwarded to: Seth Bodnar,
101 President of the University of Montana; Reed Humphrey, Acting Provost of the University of
102 Montana; Chris Palmer, Chair of Faculty Senate; Maria Magnold, UM Registrar; Gwen Coon,
103 ASUM Office Manager.

104
105 Passed by Committee: _____, 2021

106
107 Passed by ASUM Senate: January 27, 2021

108
109 _____

110
111 Noah Durnell,
112 Chair of the Relations and Affairs Committee

Patrick James Flanagan,
Chair of the Senate