



**Summary of Meeting  
March 26, 2020  
1:00-2:00 p.m.**

Officers and Committee Chairs								
X	Leone, Cataldo	Chair	GSDM		O'Keefe, Eileen	Faculty Policies	SAR	
X	O'Keefe, Eileen	Vice Chair	Sargent	X	Howard, Kimberly A.S.	Graduate Programs	WCEHD	
X	Hoecherl-Alden, G.	Secretary-Treasurer	CAS			Media/Communication		
	Decosimo, David	Academic Freedom	STH	X	Coleman, Fadie T.	Research	MED	
	Hoecherl-Alden, Gisela	Awards	CAS	X	Hughes, Jeffrey	Student Policies	CAS	
	Williams, Mark T.	Compensation and Benefits	QST	X	J. Robb Dixon	Sustainability	QST	
	Brady, Steve	Credentials and By-laws	MED	X	Andres, Andy	Teaching Resources	CGS	
X	Cozier, Yvette	Equity and Inclusion	SPH	X	O'Brien Hallstein, D. Lynn	Undergraduate Programs	CGS	
Representatives (R) and Alternates (A)								
X	Abrams, Binjomin (R)	CAS	X	Griffin, Sue, (R)	CAS		Pani, Pinelopi, (A)	GSDM
X	Alosco, Michael (R)	CAS	X	Hesse, Petra, (A)	WCEHD		Park, Hee-Young, (A)	MED
X	Amato, Felice (R)	CFA		Hopper, Clay, (A)	CFA	X	Perls, Thomas, (R)	MED
X	Ampountolas, Apostolos (R)	SHA	X	Huckle, Nicholas, (R)	CAS		Pesanelli, Kelly, (A)	Sargent
	Austin, Judy (A)	COM	X	Hughes, Jeffrey, (R)	CAS		Pita Loor, Karen, (A)	LAW
	Beaton, Jamie (A)	CELOP	X	Jafarzadeh, S. Reza, (R)	MED		Powers, Gina, (R)	QST
	Bor, Jacob (R)	SPH		James, Breehan, (A)	CFA		Quatromoni, Paula, (A)	Sargent
	Byttebier, Stephanie (A)	CGS		Karra, Mahesh, (R)	Pardee		Rafeizadeh, Safoura, (R)	COM
	Chang, Charles, (R)	CAS	X	Kealy, Sean (R)	LAW	X	Reed, Marnie, (R)	WCEHDt
	Chogle, Sami (R.)	GSDM		Kinraide, Rebecca, (A)	CAS	X	Schulman, Bruce, (A)	CAS
	Coffman, Christopher (R.)	CGS	X	Kirby Jones, Alison, (A)	QST		Sebastiani, Paola, (R)	SPH
X	Coleman, Fadie T. (R)	MED	X	Lee, Elaine, (R)	MED		Seta, Francesca, (R)	MED
	Coppock, Elizabeth, (R)	CAS	X	Leider, Christine, (R)	WCEHD	X	Straub, John, (R)	CAS
	D'Amato, Laura (A)	LAW		Liu, Chunyu, (R)	SPH		Sullivan-Soydan, Anne, (R)	Sargent
X	Villegas-Reimers, Eleanora(A)	WCEHD	X	Lopez, Luz, (A)	SSW	X	Sungu-Erylimaz, Yesim, (R)	MET
	Decosimo, David (R)	STH		Lumpkin, William, (R)	CFA		Ünlü, Selim (R)	ENG
X	DeNatale, Doug (A)	MET	X	Lynch, Shawn, (A)	CGS	X	Villegas,Reimers, Eleanora(R)	WCEHD
	Decosimo, David (R)	STH	X	Mako, Shamiran, (A)	Pardee	X	Volk, Robert, (R)	LAW
X	Desilets, Sean, (R)	CAS		Manglos-Weber, Nicolette, (A)	STH	X	Watts, Stephanie, (A)	QST
X	El Hachem, Lea, (R)	GSDM		Masters, Joellen, (R)	CGS	X	Webster, Kathryn, (R)	Sargent
X	Errante, Margaret, (A)	GSDM		McKeen, Bill, (A)	COM		White, Roberta, (A)	SPH
	Feng, Hui, (R)	MED	X	McLaughlin, Donna, (R)	SSW	X	Will, Leslie, (R)	GSDM
X	Fernandez-Val, Ivan, (R)	CAS	X	Merzbacher, Charles, (R)	COM		Williams, Mark T., (R)	QST
X	Field, Thomas, (R)	MED	X	Miller, Margo, (R)	CELOP	X	Yang, Shi, (R)	MED
X	Furman, Jeff, (R)	QST	X	Mochida, Yoshiyuki, (A)	GSDM	X	Zlatev, Vladimir, (R)	MET
	Gapotchenko, Maria, (A)	CAS		Mody, Makarand, (A)	SHA		Mulvihill, Maggie (A)	COM
X	Gavornik, Jeffrey, (R)	CAS		Mustafa-Kutana, Suleiman, (R)	MED	X	Brown, Shelley (R)	Sargent
X	Gopalan, Srikanth, (R)	ENG	X	Myers, Samantha, (R)	CAS			

University Provost Jean Morrison; Christine Paal, University Registrar; Sue Kennedy, Assistant Provost; Laura Jenks, Chief of Staff; Megan Funaro, Executive Assistant to the Provost; Samantha Khosla, Director of Faculty Council

The Faculty Council convened on March 26, 2020 with University Provost Jean Morrison to discuss the University's contingency grading policy in lieu of the Covid-19 pandemic. The discussion was held via Zoom from 1:00-2:00 p.m. Council members who could not join the call sent their comments prior to the meeting.

Provost Morrison gave a short presentation that outlined the concerns and proposed a grading system for Spring 2020. On March 16, all Boston University classes shifted online. On March 22, most of the undergraduates moved out of on-campus housing. As the students are no longer on campus and in the classroom, the University recognizes that students no longer have equal access to resources while they complete the semester, i.e. some students may not have high speed internet, or a quiet, private place to do their coursework without interruption; some may now be responsible to care for family members in the home, etc. Provost Morrison asked the Council of Deans consult their faculty about appropriate and equitable grading and evaluation for students.

Provost Morrison presented the proposed policy for Spring 2020. She asked that the presentation be kept private, as the policy will be announced officially to the University community on March 27. For undergraduates, faculty will assign letter grades. Students, upon reviewing the letter grades, will have the choice to adopt for any, all, or none of their courses "credit/no credit." This policy will not apply to courses that are ordinarily graded as Pass/Fail. Graduate and professional students will also have the choice to adopt credit/no credit for the semester, except for Goldman School of Dental Medicine, School of Law, and School of Medicine. Those schools are constrained by accreditation regulations.

A general discussion followed. The Council generally agreed that students should have the option to choose one grading system over another. A Council member stressed that students should not be required to make this choice until they can speak to an advisor in person. Provost Morrison said it may not be possible for graduating students, but that the point was well-taken and continuing students might be allowed a longer deadline to decide.

A Council member suggested a deadline extension for students withdraw from a course without recording a "W" on the transcript. Provost Morrison said that is a separate issue, currently under review.

A Council member asked how the credit/no credit system will affect students who are currently on academic probation. Provost Morrison said that the schools and colleges should review their policies and not make this extraordinary semester the deciding one for those students, but consider allowing them an additional semester. A Council member noted that deans should make contingency plans for grading if a faculty member falls sick before the semester ends.

A Council member, while noting the exigent circumstances, said the grading system constitutes a change of academic policy and should be voted on by University Council, or by its Executive Committee.

Council members discussed the merits of credit/no credit within their school and also the challenge that some faculty will have assigning letter grades for classes that are not suited to online learning. One Council member said that this is an extraordinary situation and that faculty are able to assign letter grades, using the information that they have and their experience. Another Council member said that it is important for faculty to model resilience to the students at this time as they are looking to the faculty for guidance.

Provost Morrison thanked the Council for the discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Gisela Hoecherl-Alden  
Secretary-treasurer