

To: University Senate  
From: Jared Garner, Chair Rules  
Russell K. Marzette Jr., Chair CESP  
Subject: Addition of the "PE" Emergency Pass Grade to 3335-8-21 MARKS  
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021  
Resolution Number:

**SYNOPSIS:** Upon the recommendation of the Council on Enrollment and Student Progress, and upon the referral of the University Senate Steering Community, the University Senate Rules Committee seeks the addition of a "PE" Emergency Pass Grade to 3335-8-21(L) MARKS of the faculty rules. This new grade of Emergency Pass "PE" requires a revision to the rules as well as mechanisms in place to determine the Exceptional Circumstances in which the PE grade will be invoked.

**WHEREAS** undergraduate and graduate students at The Ohio State University continue to be negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in the potential for declining academic performance and decreased mental, physical, and emotional well-being; and

**WHEREAS** an academically sustainable and broadly standardized and equitable means of addressing students' academic and overall wellbeing is desirable, wherein exceptional circumstances adversely impacting such are present; and

**WHEREAS** other major public and private universities have implemented similar grading options to mitigate negative outcomes in these times of exceptional circumstances; and

**WHEREAS** the PE grading system shall automatically apply to all students when exceptional circumstances have been declared; and

**WHEREAS** courses taken under the PE grading system shall not count towards existing 20-hour limit on courses graded PA/NP as this system is applied to all students automatically; and

**WHEREAS** once established and invoked, automatic conversion of grades to this PE grading system would lessen the administrative burden placed upon students, faculty, and staff in times of exceptional circumstances in comparison to PA/NP; and

**WHEREAS** any student may revert to the letter grade by petition to the registrar; and

**WHEREAS** policies requiring certain grades for progression in a sequence, admission to a program, professional licensure, or academic standing would be unaffected by this system; and

**WHEREAS** the application of this system shall be accompanied by an extension of course-withdrawal deadlines in times of exceptional circumstances offering additional time for students to make decisions regarding their academic success; and

**WHEREAS** courses taken under the emergency PE grading system shall be eligible for grade forgiveness without counting toward limits established in the grade forgiveness policy, acknowledging exceptional circumstances, and giving students an opportunity to improve performance under normal circumstances without penalty; and

**WHEREAS** exceptional circumstances adversely impacting students' success exist in Spring 2021, and may continue to impact students' success, in ways beyond the control of students and instructors; and

**WHEREAS** the exceptional circumstances are defined as widespread circumstances outside the control of students and instructors that may adversely affect academic performance; and

**WHEREAS** the PE grade may be implemented by vote of the Senate or by the Provost following CESP recommendation and Steering Committee approval, with no senate vote is required; and

**WHEREAS** PE is used instead of EP, emergency pass, due to the common meaning of letter "E" when used first as a failure and not a pass; and

**WHEREAS** the Council on Enrollment and Student Progress has co-authored, and agrees with this motion and this resolution; and

**WHEREAS** the University Senate Rules Committee approved the proposed changes to the rules and this resolution at its January 8, 2021 meeting: and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that revisions to rule 3335-8-21 MARKS and all other instances where relevant MARKS appear in the rules include the PE or emergency pass grade, and this be approved by the University Senate and respectfully request concurrence of the Board of Trustees, effective upon approval by the Board of Trustees.