Youngstown State University—an urban research university—emphasizes a creative, integrated approach to education, scholarship, and service. The University places students at its center; leads in the discovery, dissemination, and application of knowledge; advances civic, scientific, and technological development; and fosters collaboration to enrich the region and the world.

ACADEMIC SENATE AGENDA
Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 4:00 P.M.

Virtual Attendance Only at the Following URL:
https://ysu.webex.com/ysu/j.php?MTID=md130a40ede90e5cd4a58729b7108f98b

1. **[4:00 PM] Call to Order/Certification of Quorum**
2. **[4:01 PM] Approval of Agenda**
3. **[4:02 PM] Video Recording of WebEx Senate Meeting of September 2, 2020**
   https://ysu.webex.com/recordingservice/sites/ysu/recording/play/fc7584626dcb4dbd96748b16f36c7369
   Password: pRap2v9f
   [Note: Composite In-Person/WebEx Attendance Sheet attached]
4. **[4:03 PM] Senate Executive Committee Report**
   - QR Codes: Remind students
   - Seating Charts/Contact Tracing
   - <u>Action Taken</u>: Transfer Standing Form (to be discussed under new business)
5. **Ohio Faculty Council Report** – No Report
6. **Charter and Bylaws Committee** – No Report
7. **[4:05 PM] Report of the Elections/Balloting Committee** – Senate Chair election results
8. **[4:10 PM] Reports from Senate Committees**
   a. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee – Tom Wakefield, Chair (see attachment)
   b. Teaching and Learning – Minutes of meetings held 9/10, 9/24, and 10/1 (see attachments)
   c. Student Success – Jeff Coldren, Chair (see attachment)
   d. Library Committee – Johnathan Farris, Chair (see attachment)
   e. Honors Committee – Amy Weaver, Chair (see attachment)
9. **[4:30 PM] Unfinished Business**
   a. Update on Gray Associates – Provost Smith
   b. Discussion regarding potential extension of CR/NC policy for Fall 2020 – Dawna Cerney, Chair, Academic Standards (see attachment)
10. **[4:50 PM] New Business**
    a. Campus Covid-19 Update – Dr. Eddie Howard and Ms. Julie Gentile
    b. Transfer Standing Form Discussion (see attachment)
11. **[5:00 PM] Adjournment**

NEXT SENATE MEETING:
Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 4:00 P.M.

Academic Senate Sign-In Sheet: October 7, 2020

Allen through Fuhrman

Present?	Senator Name	Department	Type of Senator	Term
	Allen, Jeffrey	Dean, BCHHS	Administration	2020-2021
	Amin, Isam	Geology and Env. Sci.	Departmental	2019-2021
WebEX	Arntsen, Christopher	Chemistry	Departmental	2019-2021
Present	Bagley, Morgan	Kinesiol. & Sport Sci.	Departmental	2020-2022
WebEX	Balaz, Snjezana	Physics & Astronomy	At Large	2020-2021
WebEX	Ball, Kevin	Associate Provost	Administration	2020-2021
WebEX	Benedict, Jim	Physical Therapy	Departmental	2019-2021
WebEX	Bennett, Carol	AP, Div., Eq. and Incl.	Administration	2020-2021
WebEX	Berardini, Claire	AP, Student Success	Administration	2020-2021
WebEX	Boczkowaska, Ewelina	Music	At Large	2020-2021
Present	Brahmandam, Balakrishna	STEM	Student Govt.	2020-2021
WebEX	Briley, Margaret	Counseling, SP & EL	At Large	2019-2020
WebEX	Bruns, Kristin	Counseling, SP & EL	At Large	2019-2020
WebEX	Cahn-Lipman, Kivie	Music	At Large	2020-2021
WebEX	Caven, Robert	Elec. Computer Eng.	Departmental	2020-2022
	Clutter, Susan	Criminal Justice	Departmental	2019-2021
WebEX	Congdon, Eleanor	History	At Large	2019-2020
Present	Cooper, Chet	Biological Sciences	Departmental	2019-2021
WebEX	Cossentino, Amy	Dean, Honors College	Administration	2020-2021
WebEX	Costarell, Mike	Engineering Technol.	Departmental	2020-2022
WebEX	Cripe, Kathleen	Teacher Education	Departmental	2018-2020
WebEX	Donnachie, Katharine	STEM	Student Govt.	2020-2021
Present	Earnheardt, Adam	Communication	Departmental	2020-2022
WebEX	Epler, Pam	Counseling, SP & EL	At Large	2019-2020
WebEX	Faerber-Ovaska, Rachel	Foreign Languages	Part-Time	
WebEX	Farris, Johnathan	Art	At Large	2020-2021
WebEX	Fluker, Amy	History	Departmental	2020-2022
WebEX	Fuhrman, Hillary	Int. Dir., Inst. T&L	Administration	2020-2021

Academic Senate Sign-In Sheet: October 7, 2020

Fusillo through Licata

	Senator Name	Department	Type of Senator	Term
WebEX	Fusillo, Ida	Health Professions	At Large	2019-2020
WebEX	Garlick, Katherine	Theater and Dance	Departmental	2019-2021
WebEX	Ge, Weiqing	Physical Therapy	At Large	2019-2020
	Gitimu, Priscilla	Human Ecology	Departmental	2018-2020
Present	Grubb, Max	Communications	At Large	2020-2021
	Han-Hass, Helen	Management	Departmental	2020-2022
	Henderson, Kerri	Accounting & Finance	Departmental	2020-2022
Present	Herman, Jeanne	Registrar	Administration	2020-2021
Present	Howard, Avery	CSTEM [Exec. VP]	Student Govt.	2020-2021
Present	Howard, Eddie	VP, Student Affairs	Administration	2020-2021
WebEX	Howell, Charles	Dean, BCLASSE	Administration	2020-2021
WebEX	Jackson, Carrie	Counseling, SP & EL	Departmental	2018-2022
WebEX	Jackson, John	Chemistry	At Large	2020-2021
WebEX	Jiang, Qi	Sociology/Anthropology	Departmental	2019-2021
WebEX	Juergensen, James	Psychology	Departmental	2018-2020
WebEX	Karpak, Birsen	Accounting & Finance	At Large	2019-2020
WebEX	Keillor, Bruce	Marketing	Departmental	2019-2021
	Khalayleh, Daniah	BCHHS [VP Pub. Rel.]	Student Govt.	2020-2021
WebEX	Khavari, Sepideh	Math & Statistics	Departmental	2019-2021
WebEX	Kimosop, Peter	Geography	Departmental	2020-2022
WebEX	Kirova, Alena	Foreign Language	Departmental	2020-2022
Present	Koupiaris, Nicholas	WCBA	Student Govt.	2020-2021
Present	Kramer, Bob	Comp. Sci. Inf. Sys.	At Large	2020-2021
	Kress, Victoria	Counseling, SP & EL	At Large	2019-2020
Present	Lamb, Carol	Engineering Technology	At Large	2020-2021
WebEX	Larson, Karlis	WCBA	Student Govt.	2020-2021
	Licata, Betty Jo	Dean, WCBA	Administration	2020-2021

Academic Senate Sign-In Sheet: October 7, 2020

Marie through Shaughnessy

	Senator Name	Department	Type of Senator	Term
WebEX	Marie, Hazel	Mech. Industrial Eng.	Departmental	2020-2022
WebEX	Mir, Mustansir	Philosophy and Religion	Departmental	2019-2021
WebEX	Mitchell, Andrew	Music	Departmental	2019-2021
WebEX	Morgan, Dave	Music	At Large	2020-2021
WebEX	Naples, Daniel	WCBA	Student Govt.	2020-2021
WebEX	Olshanski, Nicole	Nursing	Departmental	2019-2021
	Oltmanns, Caroline	Music	At Large	2020-2021
WebEX	Ovaska, Tomi	Economics	Departmental	2020-2022
WebEX	Palich, Ruth	Health Professions	Departmental	2020-2022
Present	Park, Byung-Wook	Civil Env. Chem. Eng.	Departmental	2020-2022
	Paul, Phyllis	Dean, CCCA	Administration	2020-2021
	Pintar, Jenn	Associate Provost	Administration	2020-2021
WebEX	Pompeo, Mark	WCBA	Student Govt.	2020-2021
Present	Powe, Nicolette	Health Professions	At Large	2019-2020
Present	Randolph-Bettura, Derek	WCBA	Student Govt.	2020-2021
WebEX	Reday, Peter	Marketing	At Large	2019-2020
WebEX	Roby, Amanda	Health Professions	At Large	2019-2020
	Root, Jena	Music	At Large	2020-2021
Present	Sacco, Michael	BCLASSE	Student Govt.	2020-2021
WebEX	Sanders, Sal	Dean, Grad. Stud.	Administration	2020-2021
	Schueller, Kriss	Comp. Sci. Inf. Sys.	Departmental	2019-2021
WebEX	Scrocco, Diana Awad	English	Departmental	2019-2021
Present	Sebastiano, Taylor	STEM	Student Govt.	2020-2021
WebEX	Sethi, Swati	Psychology	At Large	2019-2020
WebEX	Sharma, Suresh	Civil Engineering	At Large	2020-2021
Present	Shaughnessy, Justin	GRAD [President]	Student Govt.	2020-2021

Academic Senate Sign-In Sheet: October 7, 2020

Smith through Williams

Initials	Senator Name	Department	Type of Senator	Term
Present	Smith, Brien	Provost	Administration	2020-2021
	Smith, Suzanne	Health Professions	At Large	2019-2020
WebEX	Sperry, Dana	Art	Departmental	2020-2022
WebEX	Steelant, Wim	Dean, CSTEM	Administration	2020-2021
WebEX	Sumell, AJ	Economics	At Large	2019-2020
WebEX	Ulusoy, Emre	Marketing	At Large	2019-2020
WebEX	Vaughn, Mariko	BCLASSE	Student Govt.	2020-2021
WebEX	Vendemia, Bill	Management	At Large	2019-2020
Present	Venkataraman, Meena	Social Work	Departmental	2019-2021
WebEX	Villano, Michael	Accounting & Finance	At Large	2019-2020
WebEX	Walker, Gary	Biological Sciences	At Large	2020-2021
	Walker, Jason	Mech. Industrial Eng.	At-Large	2020-2021
	Weidow, Danyelle	BCHHS	Student Govt.	2020-2021
Excused	Williams, Amy	Counseling, SP & EL	At Large	2019-2020
	VACANT	CLASS	At Large	2020-2021
	VACANT	CLASS	At Large	2020-2021
	VACANT	CLASS	At Large	2019-2021
	VACANT	Physics and Astronomy	Departmental	2020-2022
	VACANT	TBD	Part-Time	
	VACANT	TBD	Student Govt.	2020-2021
	VACANT	Political Science	Departmental	2019-2021

Guests (non-Senators)

Name/Department	Name/Department
Present: Ted Roberts, James Tressel	
By WebEX: Amy Crawford, Brian Wells, Carrie Stipanovich, Denise Walters-Dobson, Stephanie Smith, Laurie Paul, Nicole Wells, Paul Ditchey, Mary Coller, Kelley Colwell, Jeff Coldren, Jennifer Soles	
By Phone: 6057****83, 7245****57	

Undergrad Curr Committee Chair (12)				
Code	**Title**	**Status**	**Initiator**	**Received**
ART 1505	ART 1505: Creative Art Appreciation	Deleted	jchristiansenerb	9/30/2020
ART 3727	ART 3727: Topics in Advanced Printmaking	Deleted	jchristiansenerb	9/30/2020
ART 3786	ART 3786: History of Art and Technology	Deleted	jchristiansenerb	9/30/2020
ART 3787	ART 3787: History and Appreciation of Art and Music	Deleted	jchristiansenerb	9/30/2020
ART 4854	ART 4854: Senior Project: Painting	Deleted	jchristiansenerb	9/30/2020
CSCI 4870	CSCI 4870: Biometrics	Added	jrsullins	9/25/2020
CSCI 4871	CSCI 4871: Cloud Computing and Big Data	Added	jrsullins	9/25/2020
FSCI 3714L	FSCI 3714L: Forensic Science CSI Lab	Edited	rewardle	10/1/2020
FSCI 3716L	FSCI 3716L: For Sci Evidence Analysis Lab	Edited	rewardle	9/28/2020
FSCI 4852	FSCI 4852: Trace Evidence	Edited	rewardle	10/1/2020
FSCI 4853	FSCI 4853: Forensic Firearms Examination	Edited	rewardle	10/1/2020
FSCI 4854	FSCI 4854: Death Investigation	Added	rewardle	9/28/2020

Senate Committee on Teaching and Learning

Meeting Minutes: September 10, 2020, 3-4pm

The committee met via Webex. Present were Cary Wecht (Chair), Chris Bellas, Monica Merrill, Kristin Bruns, Alicia Prieto, Mike Ekoniak, Joy Tang, Terry Benton, Christina Saenger, Hillary Fuhrman, Alison Kaufman, and Joe Alberti. Absent were Dan Keown, Mike Pontikos, and Sharyn Zembower.

After introductions, the group was informed of the history and mission of the ITL as they relate to this new committee's charge. We reviewed the charge and did the following:

1. Created a sub-group to review our student evaluation of teaching form and process. This group will consider literature about student evaluation of faculty, evaluate our current process, and suggest the best course of future action. Members include: Chris Bellas, Monica Merrill, Kristin Bruns, Alicia Prieto, and Mike Ekoniak.
2. Created a subgroup to review the YSU common syllabus. This group will consider literature regarding best practices in syllabi construction and offer recommendations. The common syllabus should help standardize student navigation and help faculty ensure that all necessary elements are represented there. Members include: Joy Tang, Terry Benton, Christina Saenger, Alison Kaufman, and Joe Alberti
3. Reviewed the upcoming ITL calendar of events and offered additional suggestions.
4. Solicited volunteers to serve on a panel for an upcoming workshop on connecting students.
5. Decided that Teams will be used to house our committee documents.
6. Decided that regular meetings will be held on Thursdays from 3-4, every two weeks (for the time being).

Respectfully submitted,

Cary Wecht, September 11, 2020

Senate Committee on Teaching and Learning – Common Syllabus Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes: September 24, 2020, 3-4pm

The committee met via Webex. Present were Cary Wecht (Chair), Dan Keown, Terry Benton, Christina Saenger, Joy Tang, Hillary Fuhrman, Alison Kaufman, and Joe Alberti

The group met to talk about next steps in revamping the common syllabus. The original language and a new template are posted to Teams. The group discussed linking out to additional resources, and how Cyber Learning, via BlackBoard, might use or interface with the document. Alison Kaufman agreed to chair this subgroup.

Action items included the following:

1. Confer with Jenn Pintar and Kevin Ball about what is technically required in the document. (Is there additional policy language beyond the OEA contract? Is linking out to items sufficient?
2. Did Academic Senate have specific goals in mind when they asked us to take on the project? Also, will the common syllabus continue to be "owned" and housed by the Senate, or will ITL do this?
3. At a later date, we will look to department chairs and students for feedback on the document.

Respectfully submitted,

Cary Wecht, September 11, 2020

Senate Committee on Teaching and Learning – Student Evaluation of Teaching Subgroup

Meeting Minutes: October 1, 2020, 3-4pm

The subgroup met via Webex. Present were Cary Wecht (Chair), Monica Merrill, Kristin Bruns, and Sharyn Zembower, Mike Pontikos, and Hillary Fuhrman. Absent were Chris Bellas Alicia Prieto, and Mike Ekoniak.

1. Fuhrman and Wecht agreed to co-chair the subcommittee.
2. The subgroup agreed to split up research by topic area. Gathered information will be posted in Teams folders.
   a. Historical problems with student evals, and how the problems can be mitigated (e.g., bias by instructor gender or race, course difficulty) – **Bruns**
   b. Evidence of what constitutes good teaching – **Wecht**
   c. Examples of good practices at other institutions – **Merrill, Zembower, Pontikos**
      i. Response rates - **Fuhrman**
   d. Other YSU policy about teaching responsibilities (e.g., OEA, Chair Eval of Faculty) – **Pontikos, Wecht**
3. We will meet again on 10/29 to report back.

Respectfully submitted,

Cary Wecht, September 11, 2020

Date   **November 4, 2020**   Report Number (For Senate Use Only) _____

Name of Committee Submitting Report
Student Success Task Force

Committee Status: (elected chartered, appointed chartered, ad hoc, etc.)
Ad Hoc

Names of Committee Members:
Jeffrey Coldren (Chair), AJ Sumell, Morgan Bagley, Max Grubb, Christina Saenger, Alicia Prieto, Patrick Spearman, Student (vacant), Charles Howell, Jeanne Herman, Claire Beradini, Mike Sherman

Upcoming Meetings:
TBD

Report:

This task force was formed in the Spring 2020 semester with the charge "to generate appropriate recommendations to the Academic Senate for objectives, strategies, and academic policies that would help guide student success. This task force is not intended to supersede the charge of the Academic Standards Committee, but rather to complement its work."

The task force met two times (October 9 and October 23). We reviewed the charge of the committee and developed tasks to be accomplished.   The primary goal of the task force this semester is to prepare and gather input from stakeholders on the 2020 Strategic Completion Plan required by the Ohio Department of Higher Education to be submitted by December, 2020. This "Student Retention, Persistence, and Completion Plan" is to be endorsed by the YSU Board of Trustees and forms an essential component of the **Plan for Strategic Actions to Take Charge of Our Future**.
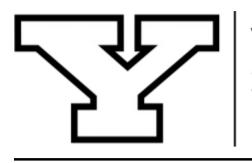
The plan specifies five action points that are high-impact and focused on student success: (1) the implementation, testing, and training using DegreeWorks as the successor to the present uAcheive degree audit system; (2) the use of CRM Advise as an integrated component which allows a more holistic and individualized approach to advising and engaging students; (3) strategies to transition students from the newly implemented cohort-based advising model to second year and beyond advising; (4) a review of current policies and procedures related to student advising, records, and registration with the goal of increasing paper flow efficiency and eliminating barriers to student progress; and (5) a discussion of how to meet the needs of underrepresented and underserved students.

Do you anticipate making a formal motion relative to the report? **NO**

If substantive changes in your committee recommendation are made from the floor, would the committee prefer that the matter be sent back to committee for further consideration?   **Yes**

NOTES:

Report respectfully submitted by:
Jeffrey Coldren, Chair Student Success Task Force

Committee Report Form | YSU

COVER SHEET TO BE ATTACHED TO ALL REPORTS SUBMITTED TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE

Date **10/27/2020** Senate Meeting Date 11/4/2020 Report # (Senate Use Only) _____

Intended Action: Informational x_   Senate Vote___   Consultative/Advisory___

Name of Committee Submitting Report: Library Committee

Committee Status: appointed chartered

Names of Committee Members

Johnathan Farris (co-chair) CCCA, Jacob Labendz (co-chair) BCLASSE, Eleanor Congdon BCLASSE, Laura Calcagni BCHHS, Kristin Bruns BCLASSE, Alice Wang CCCA, Rick Deschenes CSTEM, Martha Pallante BCLASSE, Jeremy Schwartz WCBA, Maddy Johns (student), Michael Sacco (student), Ana Torres Dir. Maag Library (ex officio), Phyllis Paul Admin. (ex officio), Gary Walker CSTEM (ex officio), Christine Adams (ex officio)

Elected Members

Appointed Members

Please write a brief summary of the report the Committee is submitting to the Senate:

The committee met with two chief objects of discussion: what do to provisionally to deal with allocations in light of recent departmental reorganizations and how to develop a more sustainable and logical system for the allocation of library funds in the future.

Provisional allocation adjustments as a result of recent departmental reorganizations:

The committee was faced with the immediate situation that the reorganization during the summer of 2020 had moved some departments into different colleges, demoted some departments into programs, and separated some previously allied programs into different departments. For this year, and until a viable systemic replacement has been produced for the current tradition of department allocations, the committee recommended that current funding allocations follow departments and programs into their new institutional home. With respect to programs that themselves had been split to go into separate institutional homes, the committee agreed with the library staff that these should be dealt with on a case-by-case

basis. The librarians will be reaching out to the affected faculty, but affected faculty are encouraged also to be proactive in opening dialogue about resources that they will need in the near future.

<u>Future prospects of a sustainable and logical system for the allocation of funds:</u>

It has been established that the current tradition of departmental allocations for acquiring library resources is a product of a process that occurred in the 1960s when YSU went from being a private to a public institution. The precise criteria used in determining allocations is no longer known. The current allocation system therefore represents a tradition, and not a system. Furthermore, a profound transformation of library resources and their acquisition has occurred since the arrival of the internet. Therefore, producing a new, sustainable, and logical system for the allocation of funds for library resource acquisition is sorely needed.

It is generally understood within the committee that library resources that serve the entire university or a majority of its constituents, like Ohio Link, JSTOR, and Films On Demand, should receive first funding priority. Many of these resources have their own funding line, but in managing allocation funds overall this has been reaffirmed as a priority.

Some tentative exploration of how other university libraries allocate funds suggest that there are models which allocate funding by charting resource usage, by assessing relative funding need for particular resources, by student enrolment in disciplines and/or classes, and by graduation rates of students in particular programs. Other ideas aired by committee members included the abandonment of department-based allocations altogether or the use of Dean's Advisory Committees within colleges to settle internal department and program allocations.

In order to move forward with the necessary reform in the allocation of funds for library acquisitions, the committee has decided to create an open forum and survey in which all faculty might have input and contribute ideas. The committee will meet again in November to commence organizational work for this process. Should faculty members not currently on the committee desire to take part in this process, the chairs would invite their input wholeheartedly.

<u>Other:</u>

Director Torres asked the committee's support for the current library policy of not purchasing hard copy materials when those same materials were already available through current electronic subscriptions. The committee lent its general assent to this policy, though no vote was taken as it is already an active policy. The committee as always invites any comments from faculty and student constituents.

If substantive changes in your committee recommendation are made from the floor, would the committee prefer that the matter be sent back to committee for further consideration?

Introduction and Rationale

Revised Policy/Policies (when applicable)

 Recommendation

In Attendance – Amy Weaver, Jessie Wright, Jeremy Schwartz, Kathleen Cripe, Ron

Shaklee, Thomas Wakefield, William Vendemia, Diana Fagan, Nicolette Powe, Swati

Sethi.

1. Reviewed charge of committee

2. Election of Chair – Amy Weaver is nominated and unanimously elected as the chair.

3. Course Review/Approval ACCT 2602 - Jeremy Schwartz and Jessie Wright

> Jessie Wright presented the Accounting 2602 Financial Accounting – some of the
> changes and modifications to the traditional course to increase depth and breadth
> to the new course. There will be a lot of added benefits, but integrating (SAP?
> experiential learning that is used commonly in businesses. Will help students to
> understand the content and extra benefits – Meet the Employer's Day and will
> have something to discuss. Use of SAP will come up in interviews and help to
> make our students more marketable and competitive.
>
> SAP company assignment – a company they will work on and running the reports
> and going through system specific skills to demonstrate proficiency. Will have a
> company specific project and will be able to run and interpret the reports to lead
> to a deeper understanding to make a decision for the company. There will be a
> critical thinking component. Inventory, cash supplies and expansion – will need to
> get a loan or sell stock for more cash flow. The SAP assignment is a brand new
> component. Financial statement analysis project will also have modifications,
> usually done in a team of four but will move to a team of depth of knowledge for
> them to demonstrate. Output would be at a higher level. 3. The class presents the
> analysis but for honors students will be a rewarding experience and have the HC
> reps see the presentations and business executives see the presentations. Provide

feedback to the students. The exams would also be different – essay component to demonstrate a deeper understanding.

Nicolette Powe: Is SAP used in MBA program?

J. Schwartz: Yes, SAP historically used more in management of MBA, but extension to Accounting is critical.

A. Weaver – not necessarily at a graduate level, but advanced for undergraduate? This will be a more holistic learning rather than in isolation

J. Wright: They don't get to see the pieces like they would in real life. They will never get to do that the way the course is taught now. Need to have the right expectations. This is will be a capstone on a lower level because of the project they complete.

    a. Motion to approve course – Ron Shaklee, Second - Bill Vendemia   Proposal is approved.

4. AP credit for Honors English – Look into past practices with AP credit. Discuss at next meeting.

5. Course grade recalculations from honors course to general course discussion

    T. Wakefield - have received requests and have granted – on off didn't want students to have to wait due to sequencing, had a student continue an additional project

    Discussion about utilizing withdraw passing

    Motion to approve for the sequence to go ahead – Ron – 1st motion /Katie 2nd

    Motion approved to permit honors course recalculation for general equivalent course.

6. Discussion about honors contract approval process, review of data in spring, and upcoming process changes.

7. Next meeting: Doodle Poll

Academic Standards Recommendation: CR/NC Option for Fall 2020

Given the committee's response to the proposal to offer students a post-term credit/no credit option for fall 2020 courses, I am suggesting the following rationale to facilitate discussion toward a ruling statement for the YSU Faculty Senate regarding the option to adopt a late credit/no credit grade.

As we have experienced ourselves, exceptional circumstances have developed this year that have had a significant impact regarding students' ability to attend classes in through traditional course delivery this fall. These circumstances include the physical, mental, and economic effects of the pandemic, in addition to turmoil associated with uncertain futures regarding degree completion and evolving modalities of course content delivery to accommodate this unprecedented situation. Consequently, many students may find it difficult to conduct their studies in a manner that would allow them to achieve successful outcomes. Because the pandemic has significantly impacted higher education, **the Academic Standards Committee recommends that YSU students be provided the opportunity to choose, one time only, a late C/NC grade for the fall 2020 semester exclusively. Students must petition their case to their department or college. Each department will establish criteria based on the curriculum and program standards and/or accreditation requirements. Discussions will be held with the student and documentation delivered to the student, so each student is made fully aware of the current and future consequences resulting from choosing the credit/no credit option. Awarding this option will be made on a case by case basis.**

There is precedent for doing so. Just after the events of 9/11, many academic institutions granted several grading options for military personnel enrolled in college courses who had to suspend their studies prematurely during the fall 2001 semester because they were either called to active duty, or already on active duty and deployed outside of their state or the United States to support ongoing combat operations during that time.

_____

Arguments provided for adoption of late C/NC

A late option adoption of C/NC may result in few selecting this option after they see their final grade and have passed the course.

The desire for students to choose C/NC option will be reduced with the posting of grades.

Extension of C/NC option is acceptable based on the degree program

This is acceptable for the 2020 fall semester and the student can only petition for C/NC in a single semester. This allows the department or college to decide on taking the course or the request granted.

The option is acceptable if program directors/ coordinators approves the choice for each student (this bothers me if it is after grades are posted as an ad hoc choice can be unintentionally bias)

In considering that there are increased covid cases in the region along with increased observed mental health concerns over the virus and other associated conditions C/NC option is viable, However Mental health conditions should never be used as a crutch.

Arguments provided against adoption of late C/NC

The late petition of this request comes at a questionable time, namely during a potential strike, where if alternative instructors could easily issue C/NC with ease.

The change in modality may allow students who do not prefer some course modalities (ie writing intensive courses) to opt for a C./CR based on their comfort (preference) rather than rising to the occasion of developing the skills and body of knowledge that is required by the course.

That offering this option as a last-minute option can become the "cultural practice" or norm to change rules around grading. Continued last minute changes to issuing of grades may affect student performance eroding their interest in working.

Students may select and have approved a C/NC option, but were left unaware of the outcomes that C/CN would have on future degree seeking post-graduation options such as medical school, graduate school, and accreditation programs.

Senate Executive Committee Action (October 23, 2020)

The Executive Committee of the Academic Senate has approved a temporary exemption for the online RN-BSN program such that applicants for the Spring 2021 semester only shall not be required to submit a Transfer Standing Form. This is a short-term exemption that will be part of a larger discussion on the subject at the November meeting of the Academic Senate. Any additional actions taken by the Senate shall be communicated to the appropriate persons.