



MEMORANDUM

TO: SACSCOC Membership

FROM: Dr. Belle S. Wheelan, President

DATE: April 13, 2020

SUBJECT: Response to Request for "Universal Pass" Grades

It has come to my attention that there are many students who want institutions to grant a grade of PASS to every student in every class for the Spring 2020 semester regardless of the grade they had earned up until the semester was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. While each institution has a Pass/Fail policy, I can't imagine that any of them would include this option commonly referred to as UNIVERSAL PASS.

This would fly in the face of the entire idea of Integrity, academic and professional, and would create accreditation issues for the institution. Though I'm no longer a peer, I don't believe there is a peer reviewer in our Evaluator Registry who would find that acceptable. Additionally, grades of Pass/Fail are already going to create some difficulty for students who must demonstrate that they have successfully completed courses required for graduation, admission to graduate school, licensure, etc.

While I am always asking that you consider what is in the best interest of your students, I do not believe this idea of a UNIVERSAL PASS would be in their best interest. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. THANKS!