

This is a general discussion forum to engage in collaborative discussion of possible recommendations of the W policy. If you haven't already, please review the policy here: [CASC\\_W Policy\\_2019\\_1\\_DRAFT\\_9.24.19.pdf](#)

This information will be beneficial for the CASC W Policy Subcommittee as well as all CASC members as we work to revise the policy based on your collective input.

**Thread:** Looks Good

**Posted Date:** October 5, 2019 2:48 PM

**Post:** Looks Good

**Status:** Published

**Author:**  Amy Czura

The proposed policy appears to try to address most of the sticky points from the historical conversations. The midpoint W has always been problematic for me as I did not feel the students had enough graded assignments completed to make an informed decision regarding performance in my courses, so I always extended it. By the 2/3 point, the improving, declining, or staying the same trend in performance on assessments and assignments is easier to evaluate. The proposed policy also includes a designation to identify the students that disappear; I think this is very useful data to have when counseling students who return in subsequent semesters. And the proposed policy finally solidifies the concept that withdrawal (W) is a student action, not a grade.

(Post is Read)

**Thread:** Looks Good

**Posted Date:** October 14, 2019 12:22 PM

**Post:** RE: Looks Good

**Status:** Published

**Author:**  Dennis Reissig

I agree with Amy. My policy has always been "end of the 10th week of classes", so the 2/3 mark is essentially what I have already been using for 30 years.

(Post is Unread)

**Thread:** Looks Good

**Posted Date:** October 15, 2019 10:50 PM

**Post:** RE: Looks Good

**Status:** Published

**Author:**  Jean Nicolas Pestieau

I am also in full agreement with my colleagues and the proposal in general. Adding the "XF" grade and removing the "W" grade from the drop-down menu would be a welcome and refreshing change in our current *modus operandi* when assigning final grades to students. Suppose you were a student who attended lectures for the full duration of a term, took exams, spent potentially many hours working on the course material at home, and were - overall - fully committed to passing a course. Yet, despite your best efforts, you ultimately failed the course. How is it fair that you would then receive the same F grade as


your classmate who just "disappeared" after a few lectures and failed to follow the administrative procedures for withdrawing before the mid-term deadline? I would argue that these two vastly distinct performances in the course (albeit both unsuccessful) warrant two distinct grades. Big thumbs-up on that proposal!

(Post is Unread)

**Thread:** Looks Good **Posted Date:** October 22, 2019 9:29 PM  
**Post:** RE: Looks Good **Status:** Published  
**Author:**  **Richard Mack**

I only am hesitant with the XF grade for transferring students and any explanations necessary in their future registrar's offices.

(Post is Unread)

**Thread:** Financial Aid Fraud should Not be supported **Posted Date:** October 7, 2019 4:09 PM  
**Post:** Financial Aid Fraud should Not be supported **Status:** Published  
**Author:**  **Laurey Buckley**

Giving a grade to a student that disappears in order for them to avoid paying back their financial aid is an abuse of the financial aid system and fraud against the taxpayer. As an institution with integrity, I would think that we wouldn't participate and encourage such abuse despite the financial impact on the college. More education of the consequences of disappearing should be promoted during the financial aid application and award communications.

Separately, I also find it difficult to accept that the practice of issuing an F grade that is reflective of the lack of students' fulfillment of the learning outcomes should also be extended to students that did not submit any assignments (for lack of attendance). As it relates to assessment, the data misrepresents student performance.

I believe, faculty should retain the right to drop (or withdraw) a student for not attending but perhaps change the alpha/numerical designation to be different from the current W. I'm not sure about my position on the impact on the GPA.

(Post is Read)

**Thread:** Financial Aid Fraud should Not be supported **Posted Date:** October 9, 2019 11:05 AM  
**Post:** **Status:** Published

RE: Financial Aid Fraud should Not be supported

Author:



Jill Malik

Thank you for the feedback!! I'm not sure if I'm following, but I just wanted to take the moment to clarify a few things. This subcommittee is not suggesting providing withdrawals BASED on financial aid; yes, that's illegal. We also agree that assigning a passing grade to avoid financial aid policies is also fraudulent.

With regard to the potential negative consequences, the research we've conducted (as well as discussions with many individuals across the three campus) have illuminated that there are times when a faculty initiates a withdrawal from the drop-down menu (**we'd view this as faculty initiated**) without discussion with the student and this has lead to unintended, negative consequences for the student (ex: loss of financial aid, having to pay financial aid back). This, at times, has even lead to the student being unable to return to SCCC because they had to pay an unexpected financial bill (or were put into collections for the outstanding financial bill). The W is student-initiated (even our own website implies this here: <https://www.sunysuffolk.edu/current-students/registrar/course-withdrawal.jsp>) and also states it on p. 44 of our College catalog:

### ***"Course Drop or Withdrawal***

*Students who wish to drop courses must do so either in person at the Campus Registrar's Office by using the Drop/Add form or via the MySCCC portal (my.sunysuffolk.edu) during the College's official drop/refund period. Refunds are calculated based on the date of the drop within this period. Students who wish to withdraw from courses for any reason must officially notify the College by filling out and submitting the SCCC Course Withdrawal form.*

*Non-attendance in a course, verbal communication with College offices or instructors, or stopping payment on a check are NOT official ways to drop classes. The Course Withdrawal form is the only form of withdrawal that qualifies a student for a refund of tuition and nonrefundable fees.*

*The College's withdrawal procedures apply to all students, including those who receive student loans and financial aid. Withdrawal from school can affect eligibility for financial aid and/or loans, and some students who withdraw, as a result, owe the College money afterwards. These students are liable for amounts due and are billed by the College accordingly."*

Therefore, we believe that maintaining the W on the drop down menu is problematic because it opens up the door for faculty-initiated Ws, which is not in concordance with our own catalog or the typical processes conducted at other schools for a W.

Additionally, due to the conversations we've had with faculty on this matter, we have proposed the addition of a FX to the drop down for that disappearing student -- this would in fact seem to get at your concern regarding assessment --- the student failed due to lack of attendance/not submitting assignments. This would be an optional distinction faculty could use in this case, which is more accurate than providing a W, which was not student initiated in the scenario you have mentioned.

(Post is Read)

**Thread:**

Financial Aid Fraud should Not be supported

**Posted Date:**

October 10, 2019 1:20 PM

**Post:**

RE: Financial Aid Fraud should Not be supported

**Status:**

Published

**Author:**



**Laurey Buckley**

Thank you for your thorough reply.

I can definitely support the FX designation as an alternative to the W.

(Post is Read)

**Thread:**

It's time

**Posted Date:**

October 14, 2019 12:40 PM

**Post:**

It's time

**Status:**

Published

**Author:**



**Dennis Reissig**

We have been discussing this topic at the college for over 35 years. It's time to move forward with this policy.

We should think of grade rosters as being filled with faculty evaluations of students' achievement; W is not a grade and should not be something that faculty have the power to assign. Of course, students are often unable to complete a course due to special circumstances, and this proposal handles that issue very well.

(Post is Read)

**Thread:**

It's time

**Posted Date:**

October 14, 2019 1:40 PM

**Post:**

RE: It's time

**Status:**

Published

**Author:**



**Ernst Star**

I have to agree with Dennis. I have never seen the W as a grade. It is an administrative action, not a faculty assessment of effort or performance and, as such, not an option that should appear on a grade roster.

(Post is Read)

**Thread:**

It's time

**Posted Date:**

October 14, 2019 2:42 PM

**Post:**

RE: It's time

**Status:**

Published

Author:



Lynn Liebert Marx

I agree! I have watched this play out several times already with no apparent progress or solution. We must protect the integrity of the institution, its grading policies, and the interests of our students and stakeholders. Our policies define withdrawal as a student initiated process. We should be working to ensure that is *consistently the case*.

(Post is Read)

Thread:

It's time

Posted Date:

October 17, 2019 11:17 AM

Post:

RE: It's time

Status:

Published

Author:



Susan Koukounas

I agree.

(Post is Read)

Thread:

It's time

Posted Date:

October 22, 2019 3:16 PM

Post:

RE: It's time

Status:

Published

Author:



Theodore Koukounas

I also agree and hope that the W is finally used the way it should have been all along; as a student initiated action and not an option in the course grade drop-down menu. Students will have ample opportunities to Withdraw on their own. The committee came up with good recommendations. We also won't face the issue of one professor getting compared to another because one professor assigns an earned grade of F while another assigns an (earned?) grade of W.

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← OK