Resolution: 01093014

Author(s): Providence Ilisevich, Greek Senator; Nicole Schrad, Director of Academic Affairs; Maariyah Patel, Assistant Director of Academic Affairs

Sponsoring Senator(s): Providence Ilisevich, Greek Senator

Date: September 30th, 2014

RE: Deadline to Drop Class & Change Grading Option

WHEREAS, the University of Southern California’s mission is the “cultivation and enrichment of the human mind and spirit” and students are encouraged to pursue interdisciplinary coursework and explore classes outside of their majors;

WHEREAS, students only have through the third week, or 20%, of the semester, to drop a class without a permanent mark of W on their transcripts;

WHEREAS, students also only have through the third week, or 20%, of the semester, to change the grading option of a class from Pass/No Pass to a Letter Grade and vice versa;

WHEREAS, students are unable to evaluate how successful they will be in a particular class within the deadline as most classes do not have major assignments due or examinations until after the third week of classes;

WHEREAS, students are unable to measure the time commitment of each class until after a major assignment or examination;

WHEREAS, students may be reluctant to explore challenging classes in different fields of study due to the insufficient amount of time offered to select their preferred grading option;

WHEREAS, USC’s deadline of 20% for dropping a class without a permanent mark of W on a transcript is much earlier than the average of 43.10% into the semester amongst the top 25 private universities in the nation;
WHEREAS, USC’s deadline of 20% for changing the grading option for a class is much earlier than the average of 46.82% into the semester amongst the top 25 private universities in the nation;¹

WHEREAS, this policy directly impacts USC students’ transcripts and places students at a competitive disadvantage upon entering the professional world and applying to graduate schools;

WHEREAS, moving the drop and grading option deadline will not affect the add deadline or tuition payment deadline;

WHEREAS, the Undergraduate Student Government aims to represent the voice of the student body and relay their concerns to senior administration to institute change;

WHEREAS, the University of Southern California has an opportunity to be a leader among its peer private research universities and increase potential student interest by therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the deadline to drop a class without a permanent mark of W on a transcript be moved from 20% into the semester to 45% into the semester;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the deadline to change the grading option for a class be moved from 20% into the semester to 45% into the semester;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this change be implemented starting in the Spring semester of 2015;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be delivered to President C.L. Max Nikias, Provost, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs Elizabeth Garrett, Executive Vice Provost Michael Quick, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Programs Gene Bickers, Dean of Academic Records and Registrar Douglas Shook, Chair of Committee of Academic Policy and Procedures Sharon Carnicke, and USG President Andrew Menard by Secretary Isabelle Albert within 2 weeks of being passed by the Undergraduate Student Government Senate.