

**FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2020**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

Gary R. Heminger  
Timothy P. Smucker  
Abigail S. Wexner  
Alex Shumate  
Cheryl L. Krueger  
Brent R. Porteus  
Erin P. Hoeflinger  
Alex R. Fischer  
Hiroyuki Fujita  
Alan A. Stockmeister  
John W. Zeiger  
Elizabeth P. Kessler  
Lewis Von Thae  
Jeff M.S. Kaplan  
Michael Kiggin  
Janice M. Bonsu  
Anand Shah  
Alan VanderMolen  
Janet Porter  
James D. Klingbeil

Skype Dial-In: 1-614-688-1800, Conference ID: 4655016

**Public Session**

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

1. Approval of the Early Awarding of Degrees for Doctor of Medicine  
Candidates – Dr. Bruce McPheron
2. Approval of Temporary Changes to the *Rules of the University*  
*Faculty* – Dr. Bruce McPheron

**Executive Session**

3:15 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE EARLY AWARDING OF DEGREES  
FOR DOCTOR OF MEDICINE CANDIDATES**

Synopsis: Approval of the early awarding of degrees for Doctor of Medicine (MD) candidates for spring semester 2020, is proposed.

WHEREAS with the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic there is an urgent need for physicians; and

WHEREAS MD candidates graduating from the College of Medicine cannot move forward with the licensing process without having been certified as graduated; and

WHEREAS there is a significant number of fourth-year students in the College of Medicine who are scheduled to graduate during spring semester 2020, and who will have fully completed all of their requirements to graduate as of April 10, 2020, and who are electing to make the commitment to be engaged in the current health crisis as quickly as possible; and

WHEREAS pursuant to Rule 3335-1-06 (E) of the Administrative Code, the Board of Trustees has authority for the issuance of degrees; and

WHEREAS the faculty of the College of Medicine shall transmit, in accordance with Rule 3335-9-29 of the Administrative Code, for approval by the Board of Trustees, the names of persons who have completed degree requirements:

NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees hereby approves the early awarding of Doctor of Medicine degrees to students who, as of April 10, 2020, have met all of their academic requirements to graduate and have elected to make this commitment to be engaged in the current health crisis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That these degrees will be conferred on April 12, 2020, rather than on May 3, 2020.

## **Voluntary Early Graduation for Students in the MD Program**

### **Background**

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has resulted in significant stress to the healthcare environment. Many medical students have requested to be allowed to graduate early in order to enter the healthcare workforce. Some of our senior students have been contacted by the health system where they have matched for residency (i.e., New York, Ohio, Texas, California, Minnesota), asking if they can graduate and start earlier. Several medical schools are offering an early graduation option similar to what we are proposing, including schools in Massachusetts (i.e., Harvard, Boston University, Tufts, University of Massachusetts), New York (New York University) and California (UCLA). Many others are also talking about providing this option.

Our proposal of an optional early graduation date is in line with the Liaison Committee on Medical Education guidelines for early graduation.

### **Student Eligibility Requirements**

- Students who have met all graduation requirements by April 3, 2020
- Students who declare their intent to enter the workforce early

### **Numbers of Students Impacted by this Request**

- 175 of 184 MD students have met all graduation requirements as of April 3, 2020
- 52 students have declared their intent to join the healthcare workforce upon graduation and requested the early graduation date

### **Example of Opportunities for Early Graduates**

- The Wexner Medical Center has a plan for hiring early graduates in the event that a COVID-19 surge requires an increase in the workforce at the medical center.
- Opportunities exist for graduates to work in health systems across the country to work as unlicensed professionals.
- There are possible employment opportunities at sites across the country with Battelle for decontamination of Personal Protective Equipment.

**APPROVAL OF TEMPORARY CHANGES  
TO THE RULES OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY**

Synopsis: To mitigate the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on students, approval of the following temporary changes to the *Rules of the University Faculty* for spring semester 2020, is proposed.

WHEREAS The Ohio State University always prioritizes the health and well-being of our community, and the university has taken significant action in spring semester 2020 to follow public health guidance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS the university transitioned to virtual modes of teaching and learning for the remainder of the spring semester and closed our campuses to any non-essential activity; and

WHEREAS the University Senate, pursuant to Rule 3335-1-09 of the Administrative Code, is authorized to recommend through the president to the Board of Trustees the adoption of amendments to the *Rules of the University Faculty* as approved by the University Senate; and

WHEREAS On March 26, 2020, the University Senate approved temporary adjustments to Rule 3335-8-21 (G) and Rule 3335-8-21 (K) to provide students with additional academic flexibility in light of the extraordinary circumstances affecting this semester:

NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees hereby approves that the temporary changes to the *Rules of the University Faculty* be adopted as recommended by the University Senate for spring semester 2020.

## Temporary Changes to the *Rules of the University Faculty*

### **Background**

On March 12, 2020, President Michael V. Drake announced that The Ohio State University would be transitioning to virtual modes of teaching and learning for the remainder of spring semester 2020, in light of the public health risks posed by coronavirus (COVID-19). In addition, the university required all undergraduate students living in university housing to leave campus by the end of March 22, unless they were granted exceptions due to extenuating circumstances.

The university has responded quickly to support students through this transition, but Ohio State recognizes that these disruptions may affect students' academic performance this semester. Given those potential impacts, the University Senate has recommended the following temporary changes to the *Rules of the University Faculty*, which would apply only to spring semester 2020:

1. **Extend timeframe to resolve Incomplete (I) Grades - Faculty Rule 3335-8-21 (G)**
  - As outlined in Faculty Rule 3335-8-21 (G), a student who has satisfactorily completed a substantial portion of the work in a course may request additional time to complete.
  - If approved by the relevant faculty member, the student is temporarily granted an Incomplete (I) grade and allotted six weeks from the start of the next term to complete the course.
  - The recommended temporary change for the Spring 2020 academic term would extend the allowable duration of an Incomplete from six weeks to 10 weeks from the start of the next term.
2. **Extend opportunities for Pass/No Pass (PA/NP) grading - Faculty Rule 3335-8-21 (K)**
  - As outlined in Faculty Rule 3335-8-21 (K), the university currently allows undergraduate students to take elective courses under a Pass/No Pass (PA/NP) grading system — instead of receiving a letter grade.
  - Courses graded PA/NP do not count towards the cumulative or term GPA, but the credits count towards graduation.
  - Existing criteria for taking courses PA/NP include:
    - a. This option may be used only for elective courses.
    - b. Each student may use PA/NP grading for up to 20 credit hours per undergraduate degree.
    - c. Students may use this option only if they have achieved a 2.0 cumulative grade point average or higher.

- This temporary adjustment to 3335-8-21 (K) for the Spring 2020 academic term would extend a student's ability to take courses with Pass/No Pass grading such that:
  - a. the number of courses taken PA/NP in Spring 2020 be exempted from the stated cap of 20 credits,
  - b. the students be allowed to take elective and General Education courses PA/NP,
  - c. the deadline for declaring the intention to take a course PA/NP be extended to April 17, 2020,
  - d. all students earning a D or better under the course grading scheme should be marked as Passing,
  - e. the option of requesting PA/NP be available to all students, regardless of GPA, and
  - f. each college be allowed to extend this policy, as deemed appropriate, to include courses taken to fulfill requirements of the major or minor.

After evaluating their circumstances, most colleges and the Graduate School have decided to extend this policy to required courses for undergraduate majors and minors, and to graduate and professional programs as appropriate.

Pass/No Pass is not permitted and/or recommended in all circumstances, including for reasons having to do with accreditation standards, professional certifications, financial aid requirements and other issues.

In all cases, students must work with their academic advisor in submitting any request for Pass/No Pass grading.

Information about grading policy changes for spring semester 2020 are posted at <https://oaa.osu.edu/grading-policy-changes-spring-2020>, and each college has communicated expectations directly to its students.