Resolution to Clarify Grade-Change Protocols

A Revised UFC Proposal
At the May 2019 Senate

We approved a grade change policy for the Faculty Handbook that included this key provision about “retro W’s”:

A letter grade or incomplete can be changed to a “W” or expunged from a student’s transcript by action of the Provost if so advised by Cornell Health, the Title IX Office, or by University Counsel. The instructor of record must be informed by the registrar before the actual change is made.

This ensured instructor oversight, but was unclear about the underlying protocols associated with “being informed”.
At the November 2019 Senate

The UFC proposal to clarify the protocols was presented.

Key text:

The instructor of record must be informed of a grade change (letter, S/U, Inc, W) before it is made and must be afforded the opportunity by the relevant college authorities to discuss the protocols that were followed if the change leads to a retroactive W or an expunging of the record. These protocols require that the college authority’s actions resulted from appropriate engagement with Cornell Health, the Title IX Office, or the Office of University Counsel should the grade change be necessitated by extenuating circumstances.

Basically, the instructor is entitled to a privacy-preserving discussion about retro W’s that are prompted by an extenuating circumstance.
At the February 2020 Senate

Revised UFC proposal presented.

Key Text (Extenuating Circumstances):

When such a transcript change is necessitated by circumstances involving Cornell Health, the Office of Institutional Equity and Title IX, or the Office of University Counsel, the student’s privacy interest limits the information that college officials may share with the instructor. In such cases, the college associate dean for academic affairs (or equivalent position) will inform the instructor of the impending transcript change before it is made and explain to the instructor that the action was warranted due to a matter involving one of the three offices named above, and that university protocols, including appropriate consultation, were followed.
In cases not involving these three offices, where a retroactive transcript change is under consideration, the college associate dean for academic affairs (or equivalent) must inform the instructor of the reasons for making the change and obtain the instructor’s approval before making it.

At the February 2020 Senate

Revised UFC proposal presented.

Key Text (Less Than Extenuating Circumstances):
Call For a Vote

I support the modification to the Grade Change Policy that is articulated in this resolution.

Yes ______

No ______

Abstain ______