Change of Rules regarding NNG, Pass/Fail option for 2013-14

What has officially been known (but rarely referred to) as the "Non-Numerical Grade" option (NNG) will from hereon be known officially (as it has informally) as "Pass/Fail" and, more importantly, the rules governing Pass/Fail have been significantly liberalized. The following is the resolution passed by the Faculty:

All courses taken Pass/Fail may be converted to a numerical grade if a student chooses to uncover the numerical grade on her/his transcript. Any course for which a numerical grade is recorded [i.e., if you uncover]—even if initially taken Pass/Fail—may count towards the fulfillment of requirements in a student’s major, minor, or concentration; the quantitative requirement; distribution requirement; and the language requirement.

Under the old rules, no course taken "NNG" could count in fulfillment of any requirement even if you uncovered the grade. In contrast, under the new rules, if you take a course Pass/Fail and uncover the grade by the required deadline (i.e., within the first week of the semester immediately following that in which you took the course in question) and thus convert it into a numerical grade (which will factor into your GPA), that course will from fulfill any requirement, including distribution (that is, the NA, HU, SO, QU, and language requirements).

We hope this will give even more students an incentive to challenge themselves in taking courses in fulfillment of their requirements--if you take a chance by enrolling in what you think could be a particularly challenging course and do much better on it than you anticipated and then uncover the grade by the required deadline, such a course will now satisfy requirements.

Please note that the rules pertaining to introductory modern language courses (Greek and Latin are exempt) are still in force: that is, in order to get credit for the fall semester of an introductory modern language you must also successfully complete the spring semester. The new element, again, is that if you take one or both of those semesters Pass/Fail and also uncover the final grade(s), then you can fulfill the language requirement upon successful completion of the second semester even though you took one or both halves of the language Pass/Fail.

Finally, we realize that at least some students may now want to uncover grades from courses taken prior to last semester in light of these new rules. Although the only grades one might uncover this September would normally be those earned this past spring, we are offering students the temporary right, up to October 1, 2013, to ask the Registrar, Lee Watkins, to uncover grades from any courses, regardless of when they were taken, that are currently graded with a "P" and to count such courses toward any unfulfilled requirements. Please note that this is a one-time offer, and after October 1 it will be irrevocably withdrawn and we will thereafter revert without exception to the regular rules that pertain to deadlines (again, you can uncover only in the first week of the next semester), so if you want to take advantage of this temporary offer please contact Mr. Watkins by the October 1, 2013, deadline.