March 28, 2020

Dear Graduate Program Directors and Coordinators:

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, decisions and actions have been taken at an extraordinary pace and the reaction from our Mason community has been heroic and inspirational. Guiding the decision-making has been the principle of prioritizing the health and well-being of our students while preserving the mission of our university.

Due to the unusual and challenging circumstances that instructors and students are facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we write to let you know that in partnership with academic units, the Office of the University Registrar, Office of Graduate Life, Faculty Senate and GAPSA General Assembly, the Graduate Council has approved the following changes for graduate students for this spring 2020 semester:

1. **Each student registered in spring 2020 A-F graded graduate courses is able to decide, individually, on a course-by-course basis, whether they want to receive a letter grade in the class or an alternative grading option as detailed below.**

2. **The default selection, if no action is taken by the student, will be the existing A-F grading.**

3. **For graduate students who elect alternative grading, the grade submitted by the faculty will then be converted by the Registrar to the appropriate alternative grades.**

4. **Graduate students will be permitted to change to an alternative grading option until at least May 11, 2020.**

For more important and related information, visit the Graduate Education - Spring 2020 Alternative Grading Options for graduate students and the Office of the University Registrar - Spring 2020 Grading Options webpages.

We thank all of you for your patience and efforts with adapting to the ongoing changes. This time will pass and will become a chapter in our campus’s history that we can all be proud of. In the meantime, please take care of yourself and your loved ones.

Sincerely,

Laurence Bray
Associate Provost for Graduate Education
George Mason University