NA Grade Proposal

From the current bulletin:

A grade of "NA" indicates an apparent withdrawal as a result of the student never attending a registered section. For graduate courses, the "NA" grade was designated as a final grade equivalent to a failing grade of "E" and calculated in the graduate cumulative GPA through Summer 2015. The designation changed in Fall 2015 by which the "NA" grade is a midterm grade only and, therefore, does not impact the graduate cumulative GPA. For undergraduate courses, the "NA" grade was designated as a final grade equivalent to a failing grade of "E" and calculated in the undergraduate cumulative GPA through Fall 2012. From Spring 2013 to Summer 2015, the "NA" grade retained its designation as a final grade but had no impact on the undergraduate cumulative GPA. The designation changed in Fall 2015 by which the "NA" grade is a midterm grade only and, therefore, continues to have no impact on the GPA.

A date of last attendance is required when entering a final grade of E on a student's record. Currently, faculty are asked to enter the first day of the semester as the date of last attendance if a student never attended since there is no place to mark a student as never-attended when submitting a final grade.

Academic Affairs is proposing to bring back NA as a final grade option for students who never attended a course, and have it factor in the GPA as a failing "E" grade as it did prior to Spring 2013 for undergraduate students and prior to Fall 2015 for graduate students. This will help differentiate between students who failed due to never attending vs. students who failed due to poor performance. We are also proposing to remove the first sentence "A grade of "NA" indicates an apparent withdrawal as a result of the student never attending a registered section" as the "apparent withdrawal" may be confusing for students.

Below is what we are proposing be published in the undergraduate and graduate bulletin grade page, effective Fall 2023:

A grade of "NA" indicates a student *never attended* classes, lectures and/or lab sessions of a course and there was no apparent participation by the student in that course. As of Fall 2023, the "NA" grade is an option for final grades for both undergraduate and graduate courses and is equivalent to the failing grade of "E" for GPA calculations. Previously the "NA" grade had, at times, different applicability and GPA consequences.