



January 25, 2018

Dear Faculty,

In our prior statements the Student Government Association has advocated for a “mid-term grade report” that seeks to provide students with valuable academic information prior to the withdraw date. We have got some questions and feedback from some faculty so we would like to outline a few points that we think will be helpful:

- “Mid-term grade report” is a misnomer. We will henceforth refer to it as an Academic Evaluation. We are not asking for a formal grade report comparable to the final grade report on ULink.
- The purpose of the project is relatively simple. The University seeks to increase retention. All involved parties want students to succeed in their coursework. Students would prefer not to remain in (and pay for) a course where they are failing. We believe the best way to address this is for all students to have a sense of where they stand in the course prior to the withdraw date, which is typically near the mid-way point of the semester.
- Many professors already provide graded tests, papers and quizzes well before that point. We appreciate their efforts and are not asking for any changes on their end. We are asking that some assessment of student progress be provided in classes where there are no graded assignments or no substantive, individualized academic evaluation prior to the withdraw date.
 - One example of an ungraded academic evaluation would include written feedback on a draft paper or ongoing project.

We are not seeking to radically change the academic system. We are looking to provide students with valuable information on their progress in a course so that they can make an informed choice on the withdraw date. We do not want students to have little to no information on that date and subsequently find out that they were performing below their expectations. We cannot imagine anyone (whether faculty, student or the University in general) would want that; hence our request for an evaluation of a student’s academic performance prior to the withdraw date.

We understand that the University’s academic environment is diverse so we are willing to work with different academic units to develop a system that may work best for their units. We have seen a system of mid-term reports be implemented in other Universities in the country and are hoping to follow in their footsteps.

Please feel free to talk to us if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Fuller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jonathan Fuller
SGA Academic Vice President