Scripps Academic Strike Interest Form

This form is to gauge interest in an academic boycott at Scripps College and the form it should take in light of the Faculty Executive Committee vote.

Students are supporting a Universal A system, for the following reasons. Universal A takes into consideration the needs of students who face extreme challenges in completing coursework during the pandemic, including those socioeconomically disadvantaged, living in unstable housing, experiencing exacerbated mental health conditions, deemed essential workers, immunocompromised, caring for loved ones suffering from Covid-19 or are unwell themselves; students concerned with how opting for P/F would affect their applications for graduate programs and fellowships; transfer students and students on academic probation.

The grading policy as it stands rewards students who are more privileged and are able to complete coursework as usual during a time of deep health, social, and economic devastation which is disproportionately affecting FLI, BIPOC, disabled, immunocompromised, and international students. This global crisis is both revealing and exacerbating the deep inequalities in our society and within our Scripps student body.

We should not be forced to choose between our GPA and the health and safety of ourselves and our loved ones, and no student should be allowed to fail given the circumstances of this global pandemic.

In an opt-in grading system, students with the privilege to devote time, energy, and resources to their classes have the ability to maintain a letter grade, while students deprived of such resources would opt-in to the pass/fail system. As such, privileged students benefit from the opt-in system by receiving a higher GPA than those affected by the virus (who used P/F), making them more appealing to jobs, graduate schools, and future endeavors. Furthermore, students most affected by Covid-19 would feel pressured to maintain letter grades in order to counteract the aforementioned disadvantage, resulting in the sacrifice of time, energy, and mental health in the name of grades. (Some graduate schools, like Harvard Medical School, have publicly stated that they prefer students to maintain letter grades if the option is available to them). The policy as it currently exists would incentivize students to use the letter grade as a signal to professors, grad schools, and employers that they worked beyond expectations during the crisis, thereby creating a quiet, but powerful stigma around choosing pass/fail. We cannot allow some students to benefit from the vulnerabilities of others, or implement a policy that forces students to prioritize GPA over their own health. A universal system levels the playing field and puts the wellbeing of our community members first.

In Solidarity,

Scripps Academic Strike
Email (only for verification purposes, all information collected will remain anonymous)

Your answer

What method of academic boycotting would you support or participate in? *

- Refusing to attend online classes and not submitting online assignments, starting Monday, April 20th.
- Attending Zoom classes with a "#scrippsstrike2020" graphic displayed. No audio or video will be shared and students will still not be submitting online assignments.
- Boycotting course registration if student demands are not met by April 28, when pre-registration opens
- Other:

Do you plan on participating in the Scripps Academic Strike? *

- Yes
- No
- Maybe
- I cannot fully participate (because I am on leave, studying abroad, etc), but I am in full solidarity with strikers and will refuse to register for Fall 2020 classes.
- Other:
Why do you support or need a Universal A? We hope to collect student testimonies to create a more compelling case and be anonymously shared on social media.

Your answer

What questions/concerns do you have?

Your answer

Submit

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