

RECOMMENDATIONS LIST

Table of contents

1.	At the Level of Vice President for Student Affairs	3
a.	Payment for Financial Aid part-time jobs:.....	3
b.	Pro-rate Housing Refunds:.....	3
c.	Deadline extension for exchange credits approval:.....	3
d.	CIP hours' waiver for students graduating this spring and summer.	4
2.	At the Level of the Chief Financial Officer:.....	5
	Deadline extension for second installment:.....	5
3.	At the level of Vice President for Academic Affairs:	6
a)	Issues related to Capstone	6
b)	Issues related to Internship	6
c)	Switching to a Pass/Fail system	6
4.	Pass/Fail System Proposal:.....	7

Introduction

Given that the Covid-19 situation has become more permanent with the extended state of emergency, we have worked on identifying the main issues that have arisen from the outbreak along with solutions to mitigate the disruption. We have compiled the following list based on the complaints and feedback the SGA has received since the ministry of education's announcement. Aside from communicating the issue, we have added some suggestions that take into account the overall good of the community in AUI and the wellbeing of students.

1. At the Level of Vice President for Student Affairs

a. Payment for Financial Aid part-time jobs:

Current Situation:

Students, who must work a certain number of hours as required in their financial aid and scholarship package, are concerned about how they could finish the remaining hours from a distance, given that most of them depend on said money to be able to afford and continue their studies in AUI. We believe that the situation is out of the hands of the students and that scholarships and financial aid should be maintained.

Feedback from the Executives:

This point will be added to their agenda; an answer will be communicated in due time.

b. Pro-rate Housing Refunds:

Current Situation:

Since that the state of emergency has been extended till April 20th at the least, students wouldn't be allowed to benefit from housing services they have paid for. A great number of students have asked about refunds.

Feedback from the Executives:

It was pointed that if housing refunds were to be done pro-rata, then the same should apply to Financial Aid part-time jobs.

c. Deadline extension for exchange credits approval:

Current Situation:

Many students, who have gone on exchange in the previous semester, have expressed difficulty when it comes to approving credits and courses taken in exchange since many host universities have been unresponsive since the outbreak started. They have urged us to extend the March 24th deadline given that many of their requests won't be processed by then. We believe that the deadline should be extended.

Feedback from the Executives:

It has been said to be doable, but no set deadline has been communicated.

- d. CIP hours' waiver for students graduating this spring and summer.

Current Situation.

Many students, who are graduating either this spring or summer, have submitted different complaints related to the 60 community hours required in the context of the Community Involvement Program, which is a requirement for graduation. Issues have ranged from the fact that this outbreak has hindered some from completing the required number to others expressing that they can't contact the organizations and associations they've worked with for paperwork since many suspended their activities. We believe that an exception should be made for students expected to graduate either during the Spring or Summer semesters.

Feedback from the Executives:

An answer will be communicated to us in due time.

2. At the Level of the Chief Financial Officer:

Deadline extension for second installment:

Current Situation.

Given the economic and financial ramifications that this outbreak and the state of emergency had on students from various socio-economic backgrounds, many have asked us to postpone the second installment deadline as their families are going through a precarious period. We believe this is a good step for the university to take as many financial institutions and banks have accorded similar extensions.

Feedback from the Executives:

The CFO will discuss the matter with the president before making the decision.

3. At the level of Vice President for Academic Affairs:

a) Issues related to Capstone

Current Situation:

Many students in their last semester have expressed a wide range of issues when it comes to the implementation of their capstone. These issues have varied based on major and capstone requirements (e.g., not being able to conduct lab experiments for SSE students; not being able to do field work, whether it's interviews or documentaries, for SHSS students; finding difficulties working with the designated companies in the current climate for SBA students).

We believe this matter should be tackled in the following ways: by removing capstone components that are no longer feasible (e.g., experiments, field work, documentary footage, etc.), extending deadlines and submissions, and creating a case-by-case review process to address any miscellaneous issues.

Feedback from the Executives:

The issue will be raised during the next Deans' Council (March 25th)

b) Issues related to Internship

Current Situation.

Following the WHO announcement of Covid-19 becoming a global pandemic, many companies both in Morocco and abroad have cancelled and suspended their internship recruitment. This has affected both students that found opportunities as well as those who were still searching. To tackle this issue, one of the possible solutions is for schools to propose the possibility of a post-capstone internship option.

Feedback from the Executives:

The issue will be raised during the next Deans' Council (March 25th)

c) Switching to a Pass/Fail system

Current Situation.

The impact of this outbreak has resulted in the university switching to online classes. This transition has required enormous effort and work from all stakeholders, whether it's our dear faculty members, who are working hard to adapt their courses and to continue providing quality education to students, or the program managers, deans' assistants, CLT and ITS staff who have worked tirelessly to enable and facilitate this transition, or the students who have demonstrated maturity, commitment, and flexibility by adapting to the new teaching style and continuing to attend in record numbers. That being said, an overwhelming number of students has requested a switch to a pass/fail system. The merits for this proposal will be discussed in the following section.

Feedback from the Executives:

The issue will be raised during the next Deans' Council (March 25th)

4. Pass/Fail System Proposal:

As previously outlined, the Covid-19 outbreak and the corresponding state of emergency have engendered numerous issues on both the academic and personal levels for a significant number of students. In the spirit of fairness and equity, an overwhelming number of students have requested a switch to a pass/fail system, which would address numerous issues, including but not limited to:

- Access to resources, notes, books, etc.
- Anxiety, stress, and personal circumstances that create disadvantages and inequality for students in addition to concerns voiced by scholarship holders.
- Ease the disruption faculty are currently facing, as seen in their struggle with uploading midterm grades and adapting assignments to online teaching.
- Benchmarking: top US universities have switched to pass/fail systems in both undergrad and grad levels (e.g., MIT, Harvard, Stanford, etc.).
- The fact that syllabi and course expectations have already been altered with changes to percentages and grading.

It should be noted that this pass/fail system would be **optional** as students can opt to waive it.

Miscellaneous cases:

- For students placed on academic probation (i.e., warning, last chance, under watch, etc.) or scholarship probation for both AUI, Ghurair, and other third-party scholarships, they can either:
 - Continue with LG system with the understanding that they will be treated in accordance with the current, regular probation regulations.
 - Opt for a P/F system and have the probation regulations suspended for one semester, meaning that the requirements and guidelines set (e.g., GPA increase) will be in effect for the following semester (i.e., Fall 2020).
- Students concerned with their academic standing: allowed to ask for letter grades in order to raise their CGPA.