

Michael J. Grant Campus

# Academic Assembly

**April 30, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

1. Alexander Kasiukov called for a quorum for all votes.
   1. Tat Sang So – I object to the Chair's decision to place a quorum requirement to Resolution 15. I note the Chair's rationale that we are in a virtual meeting, and he feels extraordinary measures are necessary to encourage legitimacy. I believe that quorum was already established with the vote on Resolution 7, and that quorum should be operative for every vote in the meeting. Also, the Chair has decided that quorum can be established for each Blackboard survey, where each question is considered quorum-qualified if any one question reaches a quorum vote total. The survey for Resolution 15, however, is in a survey by itself because of a quirk in Blackboard. The Chair and Secretary had intended to place all the questions of the meeting in a single survey. Therefore, if quorum is required for any vote total, it should be applied equally for every vote total regardless of which Blackboard survey it happens to fall into. We cannot let our creaky Blackboard install determine the rules of order. I hope the Assembly can overcome these unwarranted obstacles and express its will with regard to this Resolution. We must support our colleagues College wide when they have the courage to speak for faculty.
2. Resolutions from the Executive Committee of the Assembly:
   1. [Resolution 2020-02-[07]](http://kasiukov.com/assembly/updates/2020-04-30/assembly-resolution-2020-02-N_07-suspension-of-assembly-procedures.docx) Approving Emergency Assembly Procedures during Remote Operations of the College passed [60-0-0]
   2. [Resolution 2020-02-[08]](http://kasiukov.com/assembly/updates/2020-04-30/assembly-resolution-2020-02-N_08-amending-the-assembly-constitution.docx) Approving the Amendments to the Assembly Constitution and By-laws Vote failed – quorum called and not reached
3. Approval of February 25, 2020 meeting minutes – approved
4. [Chair's Report](http://kasiukov.com/assembly/updates/2020-04-30/index.html#Grant-Campus-Academic-Assembly) (Alexander Kasiukov)
5. Resolutions from the College-wide Curriculum Committee:
   1. [Resolution 2020-02-[09](http://kasiukov.com/assembly/updates/2020-04-30/assembly-resolution-2020-02-N_09-curriculum-revision-las-adolescence-education-english-aa.docx)] Approving the A. A. LAS: Adolescence Education – English Curriculum Revision Proposal (AEG) (Janet Simpson) Vote failed – quorum called and not reached
   2. [Resolution 2020-02-[10]](http://kasiukov.com/assembly/updates/2020-04-30/assembly-resolution-2020-02-N_10-curriculum-revision-las-adolescence-education-history-aa.docx) Approving the A. A. LAS: Adolescence Education – History (Social Sciences) Curriculum Revision Proposal (AEG) (Janet Simpson) Vote failed – quorum called and not reached
   3. [Resolution 2020-02-[11]](http://kasiukov.com/assembly/updates/2020-04-30/assembly-resolution-2020-02-N_11-curriculum-revision-las-early-childhood-education-as.docx) Approving the A. S. LAS: Early Childhood Education Curriculum Revision Proposal (AEG) (Janet Simpson) Vote failed – quorum called and not reached [Resolution 2020-02-[12]](http://kasiukov.com/assembly/updates/2020-04-30/assembly-resolution-2020-02-N_12-curriculum-revision-las-education-child-study-aa.docx) Approving the A. A. LAS: Education (Child Study) Curriculum Revision Proposal (AEG) (Janet Simpson) Vote failed – quorum called and not reached [Resolution 2020-02-[13]](http://kasiukov.com/assembly/updates/2020-04-30/assembly-resolution-2020-02-N_13-course-adoption-his-225-past-in-pictures-us-history-in-film.docx) Approving the HIS225 The Past in Pictures: U.S. History in Film Course Adoption Proposal (Janet Simpson) Vote failed – quorum called and not reached
   4. [Resolution 2020-02-[14]](http://kasiukov.com/assembly/updates/2020-04-30/assembly-resolution-2020-02-N_14-course-revision-eng-170-introduction-to-journalism.docx) Approving the ENG170 Introduction to Journalism Course Revision Proposal (AEG) (Janet Simpson) Vote failed – quorum called and not reached
6. Resolutions from the floor of the Assembly:
   1. [Resolution 2020-02-[15]](http://kasiukov.com/assembly/updates/2020-04-30/assembly-resolution-2020-02-N_15-supporting-the-letter-of-ammerman-departments.docx) Expressing Support for the Letter by Ammerman Campus Academic Departments to Vice Presidents Paul Beaudin and Chris Adams (Tat Sang So, Marc Fellenz) Vote failed – quorum called and not reached
7. Elections of governance officers (please see the current edition of the Elections Guide for descriptions of these positions):
   1. Chair of the Assembly (one vacancy, electing for 2021-2023 two year term) to replace Alexander Kasiukov - Vote failed – quorum called and not reached
   2. Secretary of the Assembly (one vacancy, electing for 2020-2022 year term) to replace Kerry Carlson – Vote failed – quorum called and not reached
   3. At-large Member of the Executive Committee (three vacancies, two electing for 2020-2022 two year terms and one for 2020-2021 one year term) to replace Scott Votke, Daniel Wishnoff, and Elizabeth Spagnola - Vote failed – quorum called and not reached
   4. Assembly Representative on the Academic Integrity Committee (one vacancy, electing for 2020-2022 two year term) to replace James Remsen – Vote failed – quorum called and not reached
   5. Assembly Representative on the Banner Users Group (one vacancy, electing for 2020-2022 two year term) to replace Joseph Gatti – Vote failed – quorum called and not reached
   6. Assembly Representative on the Bookstore Advisory Committee (one vacancy, electing for 2020-2022 two year term) to replace Adrienne Chu – Vote failed – quorum called and not reached
   7. Assembly Representative on the Class Size Committee (one vacancy, electing for 2020-2022 two year term) to replace Hope Sasway – Vote failed – quorum called and not reached
   8. Assembly Representative on the Distance Education Committee (one vacancy, electing for 2020-2022 two year term) to replace Christopher Holfester – Vote failed – quorum called and not reached
   9. Assembly Representative on the Food Service Committee (one vacancy, electing for 2020-2022 two year term) to replace Joshua Wolfson – Vote failed – quorum called and not reached
   10. Assembly Representative on the Institutional Review Board (one vacancy, electing for 2020-2022 two year term) to replace Jason Cascone – Vote failed – quorum called and not reached
   11. Assembly Representative on the Strategic Planning Council (one vacancy, electing for 2020-2022 two year term) to replace Janet Haff – Vote failed – quorum called and not reached
   12. Assembly Representative on the Health and Safety Committee (one vacancy, electing for 2020-2022 two year term) new position established – Vote failed – quorum called and not reached
8. Motions from the Floor
   1. Tat Sang So - I move that the Assembly votes to support the letter to the administration from academic departments at the Ammerman dated May 8, 2020.
      1. Second by Marc Fellenz. A draft of the Resolution, and a copy of the letter are below.
      2. Marc Fellenz – I appreciate Drs. Beaudin and Adams taking the time to respond to the resolution. While I appreciate the difficulties they (and everyone else) have faced in trying to navigate the crisis, their response does not address the main substance of the letter of the Ammerman departments. I respect the determination that was made regarding the pass/fail option, but the fact remains that in its stead the College adopted a significant change to the withdrawal policy, one that no doubt was well intentioned to assist students during the crisis, but one that also left faculty out of the process. Many faculty are dealing with the unintended consequences of that policy change, but the fundamental issue, I believe, is one of process. There should have been a more robust effort to consult with the faculty at large before such a significant change--even during a state of exception--was implemented.
      3. Tat Sang So – I add my thanks to Paul and Chris for responding to the concerns in the letter from Ammerman academic departments. It was more detailed in terms of dates and actions than I would have expected. I am sorry if it took them a lot of time to compile those details. I agree with Marc on the substance of the response. The response details a lot of conversation before April 17 when Pass/Fail was rejected, but no further conversation before April 30 when W and INC policy was announced in a College Brief and also an email to students. Ammerman's letter does not object to the process for rejecting Pass/Fail; it addresses specifically the policy around W and INC, which was formulated without consultation. I appreciate the surprise expressed at the reaction by faculty that their professionalism and compassion were being questioned. I think it is unfortunate that administration does not have a sense of faculty sentiment resulting from the unrelenting stream of reminders to be sensitive to the plight of our students. We live in this community. We suffer the same pandemic as our students, and we talk to them all the time. I would have hoped that leadership at the College had better communication to determine the state of faculty morale. The response from administration only comes because the Ammerman academic departments raised the issues, and the Grant Assembly moving to support our colleagues College wide. The voice of faculty is more important now than ever, and I hope the Assembly will speak up to support our colleagues College wide. Vote failed – quorum called and not reached
9. Campus Update (Irene Rios)
10. For the Good of the Assembly

Academic Assembly Resolution 2020-xxxx

Expressing Support for the Letter by Ammerman Academic Departments to Vice Presidents Paul Beaudin and Chris Adams, dated May 8, 2020

Whereas academic departments at the Ammerman campus signed a letter dated May 8, 2020 calling on the administration to “make use of the faculty’s expertise and to solicit our input on grading issues and curricular matters moving forward—through governance, the union, and/or the department chairs—to create a unified message for the greater good of the college community,” and

Whereas the letter recognizes the “extremely challenging times” faced by the College and the world, and

Whereas difficult times should encourage adequate consultation with faculty to harness the collective wisdom of the academic community when formulating academic policy, and

Whereas many policies enunciated by the administration in College Briefs and direct communications with students may harm the academic progress of students even though they are intended to help them, and

Whereas untenured faculty, adjunct faculty, and faculty applying for promotion may feel coercive pressure to take recommended action that is not in the best interest of their students, and

Whereas the academic departments at Ammerman exercised their collective responsibility to educate our students and maintain institutional academic standards, and

Whereas individual instructors have demonstrated empathy for the plight of individual students and their families who have been impacted by the health crisis, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Grant campus Academic Assembly joins our colleagues at Ammerman as College faculty calling for timely consultation to formulate the academic policies that will help our students succeed in the challenging times ahead, and be it further

Resolved, that the Grant campus Academic Assembly joins the undersigned in the aforementioned letter dated May 8, 2020.

May 8, 2020 To Vice President Beaudin and Vice President Adams:

We are writing in response to some recent messages from the college administration and to the larger issues attached to them. To begin, we would like to express our concerns with College Brief #115: “Assistance to Students (Spring 2020): Addressing Student Grade Concerns,” a brief that went out to both faculty and students last week. While it may have been constructed with the best of intentions, it has been the focus of significant discussion in our departments. As our governance leaders noted last week, we were particularly concerned about: 1) students withdrawing after getting their final grades; 2) the administrative need to "encourage faculty” to grant Incompletes, when faculty members have demonstrated and continue to demonstrate great sensitivity and empathy toward students’ academic and personal needs; 3) the effect of the phrase “encouraging faculty” on adjuncts or promotion candidates, who could interpret this request as mandatory and offer the Incomplete option, even if it was not appropriate for a student’s specific circumstances.

In the wake of this brief, an e-mail went out to students yesterday (5/7/20) which purported to explain the differences between the INC and W option, yet which clearly presented the INC as the superior alternative, noticeably omitting the fact that the INC would convert to an F if students were unable to finish their work by the deadline.

In both cases, although these messages were designed to help students, they were sent out without any conversation between the faculty and the administration or any input from faculty. And, in the end, they could do more harm than good, if students request an option—and faculty comply—that is against their best interests.

These are extremely challenging times, times that have physically separated us, just as they have emotionally and psychologically taxed us. But our greatest strength is still what it always has been, in working together. Like you, we want the best for our students. And we believe that we can give them that by working together. We encourage you, therefore, to make use of the faculty’s expertise and to solicit our input on grading issues and curricular matters moving forward—through governance, the union, and/or the department chairs—to create a unified message for the greater good of the college community.

Sincerely,

The Ammerman Campus English Department

The Ammerman Campus Social Sciences Department

The Ammerman Campus Mathematics and Computer Science Department

The Ammerman Campus Academic Literacy/College Seminar Department

The Ammerman Campus Biology Department

The Ammerman Campus Foreign Language Department

The Ammerman Campus Communications/Cinema Studies/Radio, Film, and Television Department

The Ammerman Campus Music Department