**AGENDA ITEM TITLE: COVID-19 Response Plan Update**, Theobald, Benham-Deal, Chestnut, Evans, Jewell

SESSION TYPE: APPLIES TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

[ ]  Work Session [ ]  Yes (select below):

[ ]  Education Session [ ]  Driving Excellence

[ ]  Information Item [ ]  Inspiring Students

[x]  Other: [ ]  Impacting Communities

[Committee of the Whole – Items for Approval] [ ]  High-Performing University

 [x]  No [Regular Business]

[ ]  *Attachments are provided with the narrative—refer to Supplemental Materials Report.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

President Theobald and the COVID-19 Executive Emergency Policy Group (Benham-Deal, Chestnut, Evans, Jewell) will provide an update on the University’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, the University would like to request the Board of Trustees approve a temporary modification to UW Regulation 2-106 to assist with student success.

Per UW Regulation 2-106 (Assignment of Grades):

It is the intent of the "S-U" grading system and policies of the University to encourage students to take courses in subject matter areas outside their majors and related fields so that their academic experience may be broadened by a freer pursuit of their intellectual interests. It also provides a policy for grading of courses for which the conventional letter grade system is not applicable.

The grade of "S" shall signify the achievement of an acceptable competence in the subject matter of the course and shall entitle the student to the appropriate credit hours designated for the course. The grade of "U" shall signify an unacceptable level of achievement and shall not entitle the student to credit hours. Neither the "S" nor the "U" grade will carry grade-point designation nor will the credit hours attempted or completed under "S-U" be included in the calculation of the cumulative grade point.

The grade of "S" includes "A through C" (“A through B” in courses numbered 5000 or above) and the grade of "U" includes "D through F" (“C through F” in courses numbered 5000 or above) on the conventional grade scale.

Students may change course registration to or from "S-U" and conventional letter grading during the normal drop-add period only.

The University requests a temporary exception to UW Regulation 2-106 that would allow students to opt-in to S-U grading the Spring 2020 Semester through April 17, 2020. The current deadlines for drop (February 5) and add (January 20) have expired. The optional S-U grading strategy will ease the necessary transitions into remote course delivery due to the COVID-19 pandemic, relieve undue stress, and promote strong engagement.

PRIOR RELATED BOARD DISCUSSIONS/ACTIONS:

None.

WHY THIS ITEM IS BEFORE THE BOARD:

UW Regulation 1-101 requires that the Board approve modifications to UW Regulations.

ACTION REQUIRED AT THIS BOARD MEETING:

Board approval, modification, or disapproval of the recommended modifications to the Regulations.

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move to allow administration the flexibility to allow students to opt-in to S-U grading through April 17, 2020.

PRESIDENT’S RECOMMENDATION: