Resolution #: SEN-11-20-2011A

Title: The Institutionalization of a Pass/D/Fail System

Sponsor: Michael Polebaum, Cook Commons Senator (mpolebau@middlebury.edu)

Date: November 20, 2011

Whereas, Middlebury College is an esteemed liberal arts institution;

Whereas, over the last 200 years Middlebury College has led the way in creating a dynamic liberal arts curriculum;

Whereas, the Middlebury College community is dedicated to broadening our academic horizons;

Whereas, Middlebury College has lacked any form of a Pass/Fail system;

Whereas, Middlebury College is one of only two institutions in the NESCAC to not have such a system;

Whereas, there is broad support in the student body for the creation of a Pass/Fail system;

Whereas, students take grades into account when registering for classes, and thus do not branch out beyond their academic comfort zone.

Be It Resolved

That Middlebury College implements a Pass/D/Fail system. In this system a student whose grade average in the course is a 70 or above will receive a pass. A grade between a 60 and 69 will be a D, and a grade below a 60 will be a fail. A student will be allowed to take up to 4 Pass/D/Fail courses in his/her tenure and no more than one per semester. These courses cannot be counted towards one’s major, distribution requirements, or Winter Term courses. Students will be required to obtain an advisor signature, and the professor teaching the course will not know the status of said student. The student must decide to take the course Pass/D/Fail prior to the drop deadline, and cannot switch his/her status in the course after said deadline.

That the Student Educational Affairs Committee (SEAC) takes action on this legislation within one week’s time of passage.
That the Director of Academic Affairs takes the bill to the Educational Affairs Committee (EAC) in time, so that it can either approve or disapprove of the plan during January 2012.

That the Student Government Association, speaking on behalf of the student body as a whole, is in support of a Pass/Fail System and declares that this system be swiftly adopted by the administration.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Polebaum

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Originally Proposed