Dear Penn State Law Students,

This email is a follow up on my email yesterday afternoon announcing that the Penn State Law faculty voted to change grading for Spring 2020 to a form of mandatory credit/no credit. As I explained in that email, the faculty and administration are still working together on the final details and we are aiming to have those to you over the next several days. However, I have heard from students that they would like more of an explanation regarding why the faculty made that decision, and I want to be responsive and address those questions.

The faculty recognized that we needed to make some changes to grading for spring 2020 because of the many challenges our students were facing due to COVID-19. The faculty, like the students, had a range of views of the best way to approach this change, but all were unified in wanting to be as supportive of our students as possible.

Students participated through their Curriculum Committee representative and the SBA representatives at yesterday’s faculty meeting, the SBA survey, the Information and Listening Session, and individually emailing me and other faculty members. We also extensively benchmarked how law schools were approaching this nationally. This move to a form of mandatory credit/no credit is an approach that numerous law schools around the country are taking, and there is also a national effort to try to move back OCI in 2021-22.

Ultimately, the faculty decided to move forward with a form of mandatory credit/no credit out of concern for our students most impacted by COVID-19. This approach prevents students facing severe challenges from being additionally comparatively disadvantaged and from having to make hard choices about whether to opt in or out in a semester where they simply could not perform as well as usual.

I am happy to talk with students more about this decision at the Information and Listening Session, my Office Hours on Thursday, or by appointment. I include the zoom information below. Our Career Services Office is committed to working individually with each student on an effective job search and is doing virtual counseling and information sessions. Our goal is to be as supportive as possible of our students at this challenging time.

Best,
Hari Osofsky

Student Information and Listening Session, Thursday, March 26, 1:00 PM-2:15 PM
- Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: https://psu.zoom.us/j/601973512
- Or iPhone one-tap (US Toll): +13126266799,601973512# or +16468769923,601973512#
- Or Telephone: +1 312 626 6799 (US Toll), Meeting ID: 601 973 512

Virtual Office Hours: Thursday, March 26, 3-5 pm
I will have office hours via Zoom on Thursday, March 26, 3-5 pm. In order to maximize the number of students who can participate, we will follow the usual approach of 15-minute time slots on a first-come, first-served basis. Please use the sign up genius link below for this purpose: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040848AFAD2EA4F58-deans
On March 26, you will be able to enter a Zoom session at your appointed time. Here is the information needed to connect:

- Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: [https://psu.zoom.us/j/950774276](https://psu.zoom.us/j/950774276)
- Or iPhone one-tap (US Toll): +13126266799,950774276# or +16468769923,950774276#
- Or Telephone: +1 312 626 6799 (US Toll), Meeting ID: 950 774 276

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