

First Reading: February 13, 2007  
Second Reading  
Pass: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Resolution 01-07-S  
Plus/Minus Grading System  
February 12, 2007

**PURPOSE:** For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to express its objection to the proposal of a plus/minus grading system.

**WHEREAS:** The University Senate is currently considering modifying the university-wide grading system to include plus/minus grades, and

**WHEREAS:** The addition of plus/minus grades, according to the subsequent Fall 2006 report on the Plus/Minus pilot program, to the University grading system will have a negative impact on students, and

**WHEREAS:** There are several reasons to believe that the educational importance of pluses and minuses may not be significantly substantial. As evident by the fact that plus/minus grading remains a minority practice nationally as such there is no broad educational consensus on its importance, and

**WHEREAS:** The following are quantitative statistics directly derived from the aforementioned official report on Plus-Minus grading:

- "On average, signed grading cause term GPA's to decrease approximately -.025 points."
- "Data in table eight show that in the course of this trial, more students would see losses in their term GPA than would see gains better than 2 to 1."
- "If adopted, the majority of students (57%) would see a loss in their cumulative GPA, 16% would see a gain, and 26% would see no difference."
- "The negative skewing of GPA's can easily be seen in Table 3 that shows the number of minus grades awarded constantly outnumbers the plus



grades awarded. Obviously, when this occurs the change in GPA is going to be more negative than positive.”

- “In comparing term GPA’s calculated with and without signed grades it was found that signed grading harms more students than it helps.”

**WHEREAS:** Western Kentucky University’s current academic standards are not compatible with the plus/minus grading system, and the intervals between pluses and minuses are mathematically questionable, and

**WHEREAS:** The added grading could cause unforeseen problems that will confuse and discourage students, and

**WHEREAS:** The potential deflation of GPA's would hinder the ability of students to be competitive for scholarships, admissions to existing undergraduate programs, graduate programs, and entrance into the workforce.

**THEREFORE:** Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University expresses its opposition to the adoption of a plus/minus grading system.

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	Traditional Grading Quality Points	Signed Grading Quality Points
A	4.00	4.00
B	3.00	3.00
C+	2.67	2.33
C	2.00	2.00
C-	1.67	1.67
D	1.00	1.00
F	0.00	0.00

Table 1. Letter Grade and Associated Quality Points By Grading Method