

MEMORANDUM

TO: Joan Braddock, Dean, CNSM
Ronald Davis, Dean, CLA
Doug Goering, Acting Dean, CEM
Mark Hermann, Acting Dean, SOM
Bernice Joseph, Vice Chancellor, CRCD
Carol Lewis, Dean SNRAS
Eric Madsen, Dean, SOEd
Pete Pinney, Interim Director, CES
Denis Wiesenburg, Dean, SFOS

FROM: Sheri Layral, Office Manager
Governance Office

DATE: August 31, 2007

SUBJECT: Plus/Minus Grading Policy

The UAF Faculty Senate amended the UAF grading policy to include the use of plus/minus (+/-) grades beginning Fall 2007. Faculty members who plan on using the +/- option need to make sure that students know how they will be evaluated using this grading option and that it is clear in their course syllabus. Please make sure all faculty, including adjuncts, are aware of this new grading policy and that syllabi reflect its use. Numerical values for +/- grades can be found on page 77 of the 2007-2008 UAF catalog.

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Enclosure

cc: Department Chairs

The UAF Faculty Senate passed the following at its Meeting #137 on May 1, 2006:

MOTION:

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The UAF Faculty Senate moves to amend the grading policy and grade point average (GPA) computation to include +/-'s as specified in University Regulations R10.04.09.

EFFECTIVE: Fall 2007

RATIONALE: Plus/minus grades allow for more accurate instructor feedback to students. The majority of four-year colleges and universities use the plus/minus grades system. In a recent UAF referendum faculty supported changing to +/-'s by a nearly 3:1 margin.

UNIVERSITY REGULATION

R10.04.09

Numerical Equivalencies for Grades

A+ = 4.0	A = 4.0	A- = 3.7
B+ = 3.3	B = 3.0	B- = 2.7
C+ = 2.3	C = 2.0	C- = 1.7
D+ = 1.3	D = 1.0	D- = 0.7
F = 0.0		

Also, reference page 77 of the 2007-2008 UAF catalog.

"SYLLABUS REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL UAF COURSES"

During the first week of class, instructors will distribute a course syllabus. Although modifications may be made throughout the semester, this document will contain the following information (as applicable to the discipline):

1. Course information: title, number, credits, prerequisites, location, meeting time.
2. Instructor (and if applicable, Teaching Assistant) information: name, office location, office hours, telephone, email.
3. Course readings/materials: course textbook, author, publisher. Supplementary readings (indicate whether required or recommended) and any supplies required.
4. Course description: content of the course and how it fits into the broader curriculum; expected proficiencies required to undertake the course, if applicable. May include, and must be consistent with, catalog course description.
5. Course Goals (more general) and Student Learning Outcomes (provide examples)
6. Instructional methods: describe the teaching techniques (e.g.: lecture, case study, small group discussion, private instruction, studio instruction, values clarification, games, journal writing, use of Blackboard, audio/video conferencing, etc.).
7. Course calendar: a schedule (daily or weekly major topics or assignments). You may call the outline Tentative or Work in progress to allow for modifications during the semester.
8. Course policies: specify course rules, including your policies on attendance, tardiness, class participation, make-up exams, and plagiarism/academic integrity.
9. Evaluation: specify how students will be evaluated, what factors will be included, their relative value, and how they will be tabulated into grades (on a curve, absolute scores, etc.) **Include statement of use of plus/minus (+/-) grades.**
10. Support Services: describe the student support services (local and/or regional) appropriate for the course.
11. Disabilities Services: The Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. State that you will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (203 WHIT, 474-7043) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.”

