

Fall 2014

F14RS No. 39 (Plus-Minus Grading)

Adam Grashoff

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.lsu.edu/sg_sslegislation



Part of the [Legislation Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Grashoff, Adam, "F14RS No. 39 (Plus-Minus Grading)" (2014). *Student Senate Enrolled Legislation*. 298.
https://digitalcommons.lsu.edu/sg_sslegislation/298

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the LSU Student Government at LSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Student Senate Enrolled Legislation by an authorized administrator of LSU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact gcoste1@lsu.edu.

STUDENT SENATE

F14RS

SGR No. 39

BY: SENATOR GRASHOFF

A RESOLUTION

TO REAFFIRM LSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT'S POSITION OF OPPOSITION TOWARD THE PROPOSED SUFFIX GRADING SYSTEM AND TO URGE AND REQUEST PRESIDENT AND CHANCELLOR DR. F. KING ALEXANDER TO NOT APPROVE THE FACULTY SENATE'S PROPOSED PLUS/MINUS GRADING GUIDELINES.

PARAGRAPH 1: WHEREAS, LSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT PASSED STUDENT GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION TWENTY-SEVEN (27) IN THE FALL 2011 REGULAR SESSION, STUDENT GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION NINE (9) IN THE FALL 2012 REGULAR SESSION, AND STUDENT GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION EIGHT (8) IN THE FALL 2013 REGULAR SESSION, ALL THREE OF WHICH OPPOSED THE CREATION OF A PLUS/MINUS OR SUFFIX GRADING SYSTEM FOR LSU; AND

PARAGRAPH 2: WHEREAS, UPDATED RESEARCH ON THIS TOPIC HAS CONTINUED TO COME FORTH SINCE FALL 2012; AND

PARAGRAPH 3: WHEREAS, CURRENTLY LSU USES THE FOLLOWING QUALITY POINT SCALE:

- A 4.0 QP
- B 3.0 QP
- C 2.0 QP
- D 1.0 QP
- F 0.0 QP; AND

PARAGRAPH 4: WHEREAS, WITH THE NEW PLUS/MINUS SYSTEM THE QUALITY POINT SCALE WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

- A+ 4.3 QP
- A 4.0 QP
- A- 3.7 QP
- B+ 3.3 QP
- B 3.0 QP
- B- 2.7 QP
- C+ 2.3 QP
- C 2.0 QP
- C- 1.7 QP
- D+ 1.3 QP
- D 1.0 QP
- D- 0.7 QP
- F 0.0 QP; AND

PARAGRAPH 5: WHEREAS, THE STUDENT BODY HAS EXPRESSED A STRONG OPPOSITION TO THIS CHANGE TO PLUS/MINUS GRADING; AND

53
54 **PARAGRAPH 6:** WHEREAS, BETWEEN JANUARY 2012 AND OCTOBER 2013,
55 STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTLY RECEIVED OVER 200 EMAILS
56 FROM STUDENTS ON THIS TOPIC, OF WHICH ONLY ABOUT TWO
57 PERCENT (2%) WERE IN SUPPORT OF THE CHANGE TO
58 PLUS/MINUS GRADING; AND
59
60 **PARAGRAPH 7:** WHEREAS, THE LSU FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE
61 IMPLEMENTATION OF PLUS/MINUS “SUFFIX” GRADING
62 CONDUCTED A SURVEY IN SPRING 2013 TO GATHER DATA ON
63 POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF SUFFIX GRADING ON STUDENTS’ GPA;
64 AND
65
66 **PARAGRAPH 8:** WHEREAS, THE SURVEY PRODUCED THE FOLLOWING RESULTS:
67 “IN THE FACULTY SURVEY, 2,056 GRADES REPORTEDLY CHANGED
68 WITH ADDITION OF A SUFFIX (676 INCREASED, 1,380 DROPPED)”
69 AND “OF THE 2,770 GRADE ESTIMATES PROVIDED IN THE
70 STUDENT SURVEY, 228 WERE EXPECTED TO INCREASE WITH
71 ADDITION OF A SUFFIX AND 1,253 WERE EXPECTED TO
72 DECREASE;” AND
73
74 **PARAGRAPH 9:** WHEREAS, 224 STUDENTS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THIS SURVEY
75 PROVIDED THEIR PERSONAL COMMENTS ON SUFFIX GRADING, OF
76 WHICH 82.6% WERE AGAINST IMPLEMENTATION OF SUFFIX
77 GRADING, 9.4% SUPPORTED THE CHANGE AND 8.0% WERE
78 INDIFFERENT; AND
79
80 **PARAGRAPH 10:** WHEREAS, THE RESULTS OF THIS SURVEY SHOW THAT THERE
81 WOULD BE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON STUDENT GPA IF SUFFIX
82 GRADING WERE IMPLEMENTED; AND
83
84 **PARAGRAPH 11:** WHEREAS, CURRENTLY MANY LSU STUDENTS OFFSET THE COST
85 OF TUITION AND FEES WITH TOPS AND OTHER ACADEMIC-BASED
86 SCHOLARSHIPS; AND
87
88 **PARAGRAPH 12:** WHEREAS, TOPS CURRENTLY REQUIRES A MINIMUM 2.3
89 CUMULATIVE GPA AT THE END OF THE FIRST ACADEMIC YEAR
90 (BETWEEN 24-47 HOURS OF EARNED CREDIT) AND A MINIMUM 2.5
91 CUMULATIVE GPA AT THE END OF ALL OTHER ACADEMIC YEARS
92 (ONCE 48 HOURS HAS BEEN EARNED); AND
93
94 **PARAGRAPH 13:** WHEREAS, LOSING TOPS AND OTHER ACADEMIC-BASED
95 SCHOLARSHIPS COULD POTENTIALLY HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT
96 ON MANY LSU STUDENTS, FORCING THEM TO UNDERGO
97 UNNECESSARY HARDSHIPS AND POSSIBLY EVEN RESIGNING FROM
98 THE UNIVERSITY; AND
99
100 **PARAGRAPH 14:** WHEREAS, THE PLUS/MINUS SUFFIX GRADING SCALE COULD
101 POTENTIALLY DETER PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS FROM ATTENDING
102 THE UNIVERSITY AND DECREASE ENROLLMENT; AND
103
104 **PARAGRAPH 15:** WHEREAS, THE LOWERING OF MANY STUDENTS’ GPA WILL
105 DECREASE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF LSU GRADUATES SEEKING
106 ADMISSION TO PROFESSIONAL AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS; AND

107
108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119
120
121
122
123
124
125
126
127
128
129
130
131
132
133
134
135
136
137
138
139
140
141
142
143
144
145
146
147
148
149
150
151
152
153
154
155
156
157
158
159
160

PARAGRAPH 16: WHEREAS, MANY INSTRUCTORS CURRENTLY USE A SUBJECTIVE GRADING SCALE FOR THEIR COURSES; AND

PARAGRAPH 17: WHEREAS, IF THIS NEW GRADING SYSTEM WERE OPTIONAL IT WOULD CAUSE CONFUSION FOR BOTH STUDENTS AND FACULTY ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY; AND

PARAGRAPH 18: WHEREAS, THIS CONFUSION WOULD STEM FROM THE LACK OF UNIFORMITY IN REGARD TO THE QUALITY POINT DISTRIBUTION AMONG INSTRUCTORS, PARTICULARLY THOSE INSTRUCTORS TEACHING EQUIVALENT COURSES; AND

PARAGRAPH 19: WHEREAS, CONFUSION WOULD ALSO ARISE WHEN COMPARING LSU TRANSCRIPTS WITH EACH OTHER DUE TO THIS LACK OF UNIFORMITY; AND

PARAGRAPH 20: WHEREAS, THE OPINION OF THE LSU STUDENT BODY IN REGARD TO THIS CHANGE IN THE GRADING SYSTEM MUST BE CONSIDERED DUE TO THIS HAVING A PROFOUND EFFECT ON THE ACADEMIC LIFE OF MORE THAN THIRTY THOUSAND (30,000) STUDENTS AND THEIR FUTURE; AND

PARAGRAPH 21: WHEREAS, STUDENTS SHOULD ALWAYS BE REPRESENTED IN DISCUSSIONS THAT WOULD HAVE SUCH A LARGE EFFECT ON THEIR LIVES.

PARAGRAPH 22: THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE IS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO IMPLEMENTING A PLUS/MINUS SUFFIX GRADING SYSTEM AND URGES PRESIDENT AND CHANCELLOR DR. F. KING ALEXANDER TO NOT APPROVE THE FACULTY SENATE'S PROPOSED PLUS/MINUS GRADING GUIDELINES, AND

PARAGRAPH 23: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE TRANSMITTED TO DR. F. KING ALEXANDER, PRESIDENT AND CHANCELLOR, DR. STUART BELL, EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR AND PROVOST, AND DR. K.C. WHITE, DEAN OF STUDENTS.

PARAGRAPH 24: THIS RESOLUTION SHALL TAKE EFFECT UPON PASSAGE BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY (ONE-HALF PLUS ONE) VOTE OF THE LSU STUDENT SENATE AND SIGNATURE BY THE PRESIDENT, UPON LAPSE OF TIME FOR PRESIDENTIAL ACTION, OR IF VETOED BY THE PRESIDENT AND SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED BY THE SENATE, ON THE DATE OF SUCH APPROVAL.

161
162
163
164
165
166
167
168
169
170
171
172
173
174
175
176
177
178
179
180
181
182
183
184
185
186
187
188
189
190
191
192
193
194
195
196
197
198
199
200
201
202
203
204
205
206
207
208
209

APPROVED:

TYLER S. LOGA
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

DATE: _____

CLAYTON TUFTS
STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

DATE: _____