

18 September 1996

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members University Senate

FROM: University Senate Council

RE: AGENDA ITEM: University Senate Meeting, Monday, October 14, 1996.  
Proposal to amend University Senate Rules, Section V - Grades and Marking systems - to establish a plus/minus grading system for the College of Social Work

**Background**

In the debate regarding instituting the plus/minus system for all University undergraduate students, as well as solely in the College of A&S, the College of Social Work supported enactment of the University-wide plus/minus grading system. Following the Senate action in March, 1996, supporting the A&S proposal, and the Senate action in April, 1996, supporting the College of Communication and Information Studies College Advisory Council request that their College be added to the list of those wishing to have plus/minus grading, the College of Social Work faculty formally requested that their College be added to the list.

Their proposal was accepted by the Chair of Admissions and Academic Standards as an extension of the earlier debate. The Senate Council recommends the proposal to the Senate.

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Proposal: [Add to Section V - 5.1.0 the bold sections below]

5.1.0 Grades and Marking Systems

...

**College of Social Work**

**The following grades are given with the respective point value indicated**

	<b>B+ 3.3</b>	<b>C+ 2.3</b>	<b>D+ 1.3</b>	<b>E=0</b>
<b>A 4.0</b>	<b>B 3.0</b>	<b>C 2.0</b>	<b>D 1.0</b>	
<b>A- 3.7</b>	<b>B- 2.7</b>	<b>C- 1.7</b>	<b>D- 0.7</b>	

The use of the plus-minus system does not change any college or university grade point average requirements, nor the method by which grade point averages are computed, nor the interpretations of other grades awarded, such as F, I, P, W, & S. (US: 9/20/93)

For all studio work in the College of Architecture, the minimum passing grade from level to level in the studio sequence shall be a grade of "C". (US:5/2/78; US: 9/20/93)

All students enrolled in courses using the plus/minus grading system will have the appropriate point value calculated into their grade point average regardless of their College of origin.

Rationale:

A +/- grading system will provide more precise and accurate evaluation of student performance. The distinctions are seen as especially helpful in courses that carry a large number of credit hours. Other units which have +/- grading systems have been satisfied with the process.

Implementation Date: Fall, 1997

Note: If approved, the proposal will be sent to the Rules Committee for codification.