

Senate Academic Quality Committee Plus/Minus Survey

Please offer your suggestions, comments, concerns about the plus/minus grading system proposal and how, if at all, to revise it. The proposal as it passed the Senate was to establish a plus-minus grading system with the following grade options: A/A-/B+/B-/C+/C-/D/F The proposal stated that the new system would be implemented on a "rolling" basis beginning with the incoming freshman class in Fall, 2008. A "rolling" basis means that each incoming class beginning with Fall 2008 would be part of the plus/minus system, while students already enrolled in Fall 2008 would have the option of continuing under the "five grade" system or filling out a new degree audit form and switching to the plus/minus system.

1 It seems to me that reasonable options for grading range from no grade at all, to pass-fail, to something approximating an A-C-F, to the standard A thru F, to an unmodified A+ thru F- (like FN), to straight percent. *Any* other option runs the risk of not only not transferring well, but of distorting a true representation of students' performance. The proposal as currently being discussed is ludicrous. One student may risk a B-, yet another need not fear a D-? What possible justification is there for this? The system is designed to discern among average and above-average performers only, ignores true excellence, and abandons below-average performers altogether. It is so skewed as to create confusion and consternation among the bulk of the student body, despair in those who need the greatest encouragement, and fail to provide that final bit of incentive for the 93 percenters. In other words, the system under consideration fails at every turn, and doesn't seem to help anyone. Finally, if I understand the proposal on the table correctly, some students may elect to participate in the plus-minus system, while others do not? And who is going to keep track of this? If this system is implemented, I, for one, will switch to percent grades only, and report them to students as such. I'll let TopNet sort out who gets what grade -- if it will.

1 I think the plus/minus system is stupid, for lack of a better word. To me, it's a system that "punishes" the students for not making grades on the upper end of the scale. How does this make sense?? College is hard enough as it is, so why make it harder by adding the extra stress of trying to make solid A+ or even C+ grades?? An A is an A, and a C is a C. They should all be worth the same amount when calculating a GPA. I'm a junior, and I have made fairly solid grades so far in my career at WKU- my GPA is a 3.62 and I'm a pre-dental student. I'm not trying to toot my own horn, but my classes are tough, and my grades reflect the effort I put into them. If you just looked at my GPA, one might think I wouldn't mind the plus/minus system. WRONG. Under the plus minus system, the B's I have made could have potentially lowered my GPA and wouldn't reflect the effort and time I've put into my classes correctly. Being a junior, I'll have the option of choosing whether or not to go by the plus/minus system, and I can assure you I will NOT choose to go by it. Regardless, I will not be affected by this decision. However, for the sake of the students to come after me, I am very against this grading system. I have a friend who attends U of L, and they use the plus/minus system, and he, along with everyone else I've talked to, hate it. They work their tails off only to get "punished" for

making a B instead of a B+. Their GPA's have suffered because of the system, and I do NOT want to see that happen at WKU. Yes, the few that make straight A+ on everything will love the system, because it will set them apart from the rest of the pack, but that is completely unfair to the rest of the student body. I can understand why some want to use this system- to make WKU one of the academically elite, to make us stand out more. However, you run a big risk of making WKU look worse in the long run by doing so. It could easily go either way...is it worth it?? I don't think so. Why fix something that isn't broken??

1 for those students going on to graduate and professional schools, having a plus/minus system can really only stand to hurt them. When students are competing for scholarships and other prestigious awards, the plus/minus system will show a skewed representation of the applicants intelligence. For example, most Medical Schools require that in order to even get an interview, prospective students must have at least a 3.5 GPA. Hypothetically, a student from WKU, who makes all A- (92 %) under the proposed system, would have a 3.75 GPA. Yet, a student from a non plus/minus college with the same average percentage will have a 4.0 GPA, therefore increasing his or her chance of being accepted over the WKU applicant. To conclude, I think that the plus/minus system is a horrible idea. The only way I would agree to such a system is if the system was standardized across all U.S. College campuses. Regardless if scholarships and applications asked whether the grading scale was plus/minus, I believe that whether or not they wish to, interviewers still have a small percentage of bias that comes with a higher GPA number (regardless of how it was calculated).

1 "If it's not broke dont fix it". We should continue to use the current system. Western needs to be more concerned about incoming budget cuts from the state and rising tuition.

1 -In theory, I favor a +/- system for the sake of greater accuracy. -Is it not possible to award A+ grades, so that a 99 average would benefit by the extra .33 in the same way an 89 does? -A rolling implementation with choice for older students is a very good idea.

1 1. Clearly, as this stands there will be those in two systems in one class. How could this work? 2. Students will sit on low B's for as long as we give the incentive to do so.

1 A D+, D and D- is needed to round the system.

1 A plus minus system is a bad idea period. It makes no scense, An "A" is an "A", "B" is a "B". This would have negative affects on gpa and I as a senior would tell peopel not to come here for that reason.

1 A plus/minus grading system would negatively affect the students of WKU, and I am against changing the current grading system. First, though not necessarily most important, why is there not an A+ option? Why does the pattern not remain consistent? If students already enrolled in Fall 2008 would have the option of changing to the plus minus system, why not allow everyone to choose this system, with the default system being the plus/minus? I believe that this transition is ahead of its time for WKU. This public university and its students are not prepared academically or prepared for the long term ramifications of changing the system without helping students to perform their best on this new scale.

1 After reading some of the comments and suggestions as to why WKU should switch to, or at least be given the option of, the plus/minus system, I have decided that

this would not be a good idea. In fact, I am a bit concerned with how many professors seem to have issues with assigning students A's when they have a 90 in their class. These are great scores! Yes a 90 is not the same as a 98, but when many classes only offer a few hundred total points to begin with, how much of a difference is this really? Maybe a few extra correct answers on a given day for a given test leads to the 98? A's are hard enough to earn and classes are competitive enough without lowering GPAs due to, in some cases literally, two wrong answers on a test. In addition, for those who claim that the "democratic solution" is to allow teachers to choose which system, again I disagree. What about the student who works and/or is unable to attend the professor who uses the old system and therefore is forced to take the class with the professor who uses the +/- system. That's not very democratic at all for the student. Seems more like luck. There is no doubt that whatever the decision is, it needs to be universally enforced. As someone who has recently been accepted into professional school, let me assure you that GPAs do matter and that there is a huge difference between a 3.5 and a 3.8. Please do not penalize students who have worked hard to earn good scores by lowering their GPAs and potentially altering their life goals. It nearly happened to me.

1 After reading the faculty's concern about the plus minus grading system, I as a student would not be thrilled with the idea. I see the arguments that some had for it and in a way I agree but in the end I don't think that this would help our students. It may only harm them. For instance I make As and Bs and yet I'm a horrible test taker. I freeze when it comes to tests. So if I was on a plus minus system it wouldn't matter how much extra effort I put in outside of the tests. I would still end up with a lower grade. I think we need to dismiss the whole idea of a plus minus system. Western is fine with out it.

1 Although the system does acknowledge and reward most students for their efforts by distinguishing between an 89 and 80, or a high B and low B, respectively; it punishes those students that regularly perform in the 90 to 100 range by not rewarding them for an A+. If this minor blemish of the plus/minus system were corrected, the system would be sufficient.

1 An A is an A, and a B is a B. There is no reason to apply an additional descriptor to a letter. We know the consequences of our actions. If not, then we shouldn't be in college to begin with. Lets just leave this be.

1 As a graduate student I believe there is a definite need for the Plus-Minus system in that it allows the student to see smaller increments of improvement in grades. I earned an 89 in a class last semester, and the student who earned an 80 received the same grade I did in the class. I was also unable to trace my improvements (I was on track for a high C/low B at mid-term) in the letter grade received.

1 As a graduate student, I prefer the current system. An A is an A, a B is a B...it encourages me to strive for my best, and if I do A- work, I still get an A and get a 4.0 for the class.

1 As a non-traditional student I can not see any benefit to changing the grading scale. Because I am much older than most students on campus I push myself to try and always receive an A. A few times that just hasn't been possible, but then I feel bad about myself. I am definitely not for changing the grading system.

1 As a student at a college that did have Plus/minus grading, I can easily state that it would cause nothing but trouble for both students and faculty. Irregardless of what the university says, there will still be professors who find plus/minus grading "wrong" or

"more trouble than it's worth," and will remain on a whole grade system. Also, I have rarely seen it motivate students any more than whole grading does, to quote "a c is a c, I don't care if it's got a minus attached, I'm just here to get these classes over with and get on with my life. While I do not support this mindset, I can understand it. I also know from experience that there are professors with vendettas. It is sad, disturbing, and fortunately VERY rare, but universities cannot always catch such professors in time. To such professors, plus/minus is just a way to punish students they dislike. Additionally, the fact that this system would negatively affect 58% of current students (which gives us an idea of how it will affect those who are going to be in the system) can not be ignored, and should encourage the senate to forget this system altogether. I cannot count the number of students that I know that have been burned by plus/minus grading.

1 As quite a few professors stated in their opinions regarding Plus/Minus, we are not an elite Ivy League university. An Ivy League university needs to discriminate amongst their students, because rarely do any of them obtain a C in any of their classes. Here at Western, we have a multitude of students from all walks of life. Not everybody is rich and smart. Professors already know who the achievers are in their classes. They are the ones that stay after class to ask them questions. They're the ones that come by outside of class to ask them questions. We don't need to further discriminate against the students here at the university.

1 As the parent of a college freshman and three future college students, not to mention being a former college student myself, I can't help but feel sorry for those students who are good kids who work very hard for decent grades and will now be punished because they scored a 92% instead of a 97% on an exam for which they spent hours studying. Unless things have changed a great deal over the past few years, the only students who care about comparing themselves to other students are the ones who get upset when they make a 98% instead of a 100%. What's next on the list to make things harder on these kids?

1 Being as I am already a student, I will definitely be choosing to continue under the "five grade" system. The incoming freshmen for Fall 2008 should be surveyed for this. But in my opinion, the "plus-minus" grading system is awful. I currently have a 4.0, which makes me have a lot of confidence in my school work. However, I know if I looked at my grades over the last 3 semesters and had an A-, I would be disappointed in myself, despite the fact that I have a 4.0. I like having confidence in myself, and seeing a minus sign after any of my grades, A or not, I know would make me feel like I didn't do my best, like I didn't try hard enough to get that regular A. Therefore, obviously I am completely against the "plus-minus" grading system.

1 By implementing a plus/minus grading policy, students who regularly earn A's will be hurt. Less A's will be given, while the number of B's will increase. As a student who strives for educational excellence, and who earns straight A's, I am obviously concerned that my GPA will suffer at the hands of those who would, in effect, earn more B's at my expense. I don't believe that purposefully assigning less A's increases the worth of a Western Kentucky University Education in any way. Should the proposal pass, this new procedure ought not to be forced on those students who chose to attend WKU on the presumption that academic grading would be a standard 70-80-90-100 grading system, as it were. In my opinion, changing the grading policy after current students enroll in the University is undeniably misleading and wrong.

1 concern about how the plus/minus system will impact graduate students. A graduate student who receives all B- will not have the required 3.0 GPA necessary to graduate.

1 Description of a grade: An inadequate report of an inaccurate judgment by a biased and variable judge of the extent to which a student has attained an undefined level of mastery of an unknown proportion of an indefinite material. -- P. Dressel, p. 12 "Grades: One more tilt at the windmill." in A.W. Chickering (Ed.), Bulletin. Memphis: Memphis State U. Center for the Study of Higher Education, Dec. 1983 Until we solve the other problems associated with grades, splitting them into "finer" distinctions is just fooling ourselves-- it's a "How many angels can dance on the head of a pin" proposition. It is pretense and makes no more sense than making distinctions on Student Ratings by tenths, much less hundredths of a point. This is an issue of the psychometrics of the measure (grades). They are fine as gross measures-- but let's not lie to ourselves and our students that they are more precise. Higher education should be about truth.

1 Do not do it in terms of our current policy being affected and our overall school average. Students gpa's will lower significantly

1 Do not, I repeat, do NOT do "plus/minus" grading. We're under enough stress as is; why would anyone want to make us panic and have the quasi-shame of the less respectable "a-"? I'm here to learn, not compete; all the extra notation does is weaken the hard-earned grade and add shame to the lower and a sickening condescending pat on the back with the higher. And, perhaps the most shameful would be the "solid" grade where one always frets over the mediocrity of the whole thing (Am I not bad enough to warrant the -? What, did I not come enough to earn the +?) I simply refuse to take part in such a degrading process and will promptly move my happy self and my 17 grand a year to another school. I will also do all in my power to sway students to avoid WKU. Don't disgrace me with this; if faculty have become the victims of grade inflation, perhaps they should increase their standards rather than implementing a false sense of grade deflation.

1 Don't Do It

1 dont do it

1 dont fucking do this

1 Due to the fact that there have not been any more problems with the decision to evoke the plus-minus grading system as there would be problems to implement it back into the school system, it is my opinion that there is no need to change the grading system again. The real issue at hand is the quality of education for the students. A student who is deserving of a good grade will earn it and those who are not will fairly get the grade that they deserve. Ultimately, the addition of a plus or minus after the letter will not affect the kind of job that the student will obtain upon graduation. It is simply unnecessary to complicate it any further.

1 First off, I don't see how you are going to distinguish between A and A- since there is nothing above 4.0 and 3.9 is a B(+) under the old (new) system. Plus, no pun intended, you need a D+ for those underachievers that make 68-69. And what is going to distinguish those over acheivers that score 98-100 on almost everything? If you are going to do this, you need to distinguish them from those that make 93-97, it's only fair. With all that being said, I think the +/- system should not be implemented at this time. I have learned more on tests that I made let's say an 85 on than the ones I cram for to get a 95+ on. Face it, that's what most will be doing in light of the new system.

1 First, as an undergraduate I was part of a +/- grading system, here at Western has been my first time with the ABCDF grading system. I have just a few comments on this system. When I found out that the system is an ABCDF system, my first thought was, "What is the lowest A or B I can get?" If you know that you are going to get a B and an A is not possible, why not aim for the lowest B? It is a system that does not encourage the "110% approach." The +/- weakness is that it often lends itself to a more competitive atmosphere. Everyone is constantly trying to do that little bit more than the person next to you. This sounds like a good thing, but depending upon the type of people who flourish in each system, it may just hurt more people than it actually helps. My opinion, for what its worth, is that the current grading system works fine for the majority of programs and classes. The +/- system is a good system; I just don't think its the right fit for Western.

1 For general education classes that have both incoming freshmen and upperclassmen in them, it does not seem like implementing the plus/minus system would be fair to the freshmen. Upperclassmen who earn a 90% grade in the class would receive an "A" in the class and maintain a 4.0 GPA. Freshmen who earn the same 90%, on the other hand, would receive an "A-" and the grade would result in a lower GPA for them. Corporations looking to hire graduating students are impressed with a 4.0 GPA. They won't understand a 3.667 GPA for an A- student. It is not fair to the students if they don't have the A+ increase in GPA to offset the lower A-.

1 Having plus minus grading will most likely lower a lot of students GPA's. There is no pressing reason for it to be implemented and then one must decide, for whom it will have an effect on. I certainly don't want my GPA to suffer because of it and having a 4.0 will be next to impossible (it already is not very easy).

1 hell yeah, i want "plus/mins" grading! About time this happened. Im going to definitely change over to the new system. I want to be credited with my awesome grades and not be on the same level as the lesser.

1 Honestly I don't see the need for a plus-minus grading system. To me an A is an A whether or not the student got a %90 or %100 in a particular class. If we are going to break it down that much why not just give the student a percentage grade and forget about all the plus and minus grades. There is nothing wrong with the grading system that we have now and if something isn't broke then why fix it?

1 Honestly, as a Low 'A' average, high 'B' average student, a system like this would probably hurt my GPA. As of now, if I can manage to break the threshold of an 'A', then I receive full 'A' credit for the class. And, in turn, receive a 4.0. However, with a system such as this, my GPA would most likely suffer a significant drop. Also, as I am not the only student on Western's campus who's grades are like this, Western's campus-wide average GPA would drop as well..

1 How can there be no A+? This is a fundamental flaw in the plus/minus system. The person who gets all A's save one one A minus has no way to counter it with an A+. A person should not denied a perfect GPA because of one little minus sign.

1 How will this help those that make A's? I do not feel that it will be beneficial to implement the plus/minus system.

1 I absolutely DO NOT want a plus/minus grading system. I work hard for my grades and sometimes the score is a little lower than I would like. However, an A is an A and an A- makes it somehow look like a lesser grade than it really is. I realize that it would not affect me. However, I have a younger sibling and she works just as hard for

her grades. The system that is currently in place works. What is the point of trying to fix something that isn't broken? It seems like with everything else that is going on with this campus, there are other things that are more important than a plus/minus grading system.

1 I am a 4.0 Senior student, and I know what it is to work hard for my grades. I am AGAINST the plus/minus system for the following reasons: 1. One "goal" of the plus/minus system, as I have heard it to be stated, is to provide students with an incentive to "work harder" at improving their grades. I have had many, many classmates over the duration of my four years here at Western, and I maintain that 75% of time, a student's work ethic is a direct correlation with the level of maturity and internal ambition that already exists. A work ethic does not improve based on a grading system. My own work ethic certainly would not have changed because I am ALREADY working as hard as I can. 2. Another statement I have heard is that "it helps more people than it hurts." Well, what if the person that it hurts is you and you are a student that truly cares about your grades? As I said, I have a 4.0, and I am considered to be an excellent student by all my professors. If I were to have been under the plus/minus system, however, I am very doubtful that I would be at a 4.0 simply because the margin of error is so narrow. The only way I would support a plus/minus system is if an A- would not be part of it. An A would be an A, which would be a 4.0.

1 I am a non-degree seeking student who received my BA from a private school (Saint Louis University -1995). I have started taking some classes in my field. Frankly, I have been somewhat dissatisfied at the ease of the course work, and that is no credit to me as the student. I have, or if I were a faculty member or degree seeking student I would, be concerned about watering down an education from WKU. I attend classes with what I believe to be Soph/Jr/Senior students and have been surprised at the slow pace of the work and the depth of the content AND the literal moans and groans that I hear behind me whenever a difficult challenge or exam or homework assignment is brought to the class. I would not be in favor of anything that would diminish the quality any further than an education that WKU provides and represents. I should not be able to hold down a fulltime job, raise a family, and, oh by way, take 6 hours a semester and breeze through. Again, that is no credit to me as a student. Some of it I am certain is because at 34 I'm more aware of why I am there than when I was 22. I'm sure I pay more attention and I DEMAND AS A CONSUMER OF WKU's PRODUCT A VALUE FOR MY TUITION DOLLARS.

1 I am a student here at Western and I oppose the plus/minus system. From what I have been told a B- average would be lower than a 3.0 and so on. I am a straight A student so far and I feel like this system would only hurt me. My grades and GPA are very important to me. Not only individually but for my athletic team as well. All the sports teams compete to be the team with the highest grade point average and I don't know how this system would compliment anybody. I don't really like the idea because no matter how hard I try I'm pretty sure that I won't get high enough A's in every class to be in the A category, and not be considered an A-. With that said, it would be extremely difficult to keep a 4.0 average. Many other schools are not on this system so having the entire GPA scale could harm those students trying to get into medical school or physical therapy school where they do look at students GPA's as something very important in applications. Yes I understand that with this system a 3.8 would be like a 4.0, but it really isn't. Other businesses or employers won't know that our school is on this system.

Another problem I find is with the types of classes. The older we all get the harder the classes become. Lets say I have a really hard 300 level Anatomy or physics class. Most of these classes are hard enough just to get a B let alone an A. With this new system, we could be doing outstanding work and get a 91% in the class. Most students would be so happy to get this grade. This could reward students in the present system and give them their high grade point average that they have worked so hard for. If they were in the new plus/minus system then that hard earned A looks like a B when dealing with GPA. That is not right. Meanwhile, other students have extremely easy classes due to their different majors and are getting higher grades just because of this system. We don't like to admit it but there are those few classes that any student can get above a 100% in because of extra credit options and all. I know they think that this new system will make students try to get even better grades, but there are those students that care about their grades and try their hardest all the time, and there are those students that don't really care what they get as long as they pass. So this new system isn't going to make those good students try harder. They are already giving their best. There are college athletes and students like myself that keep their studies as high priorities. We see a 4.0 and we know that we accomplished what we set out to do. We do not want to work our butts off trying to pull off those A's (90%-94%) in our difficult classes to find out that we don't even get recognized as straight A students anymore. I don't see the point of this new system and I don't understand how this would be easier or benefit anyone. Thank you for taking the time to hear it from a students side.

1 i am a tranfer student,and came from a college with plus/minus grading.. and i didnt like it at all! i think wku should stay with the grading it already has

1 I am against changing the new system. An A is an A whether it an A or A-. I do not see any need for the system to change. Someone obviously doesn't have anything better to do in their spare time. Tell who ever thought this idea up to be put on something that does need to be fixed like parking.

1 I am against it. But I'm graduating so do whatever.

1 I am against the plus/minus system for the nursing dept.

1 I am against using the +/- system.

1 I am already a student and I would not chose this option. It is good for high scoring students, but alot of us struggle and it would have a very negative effect on our academic records.

1 I am an honor's student. I have a 3.93 GPA. I am adamantly opposed to the plus minus grading system. Those of us who work very hard to get an A should be rewarded with a full 4 points. Also, all subjects are NOT created equal, especially subjects like Anatomy or Biochemistry vs. History or Sociology. We work very, very hard for an A in those subjects, even a low A. We should be rewarded for our hard work. Implementing a plus minus system is discouraging. The difference between an A and a B is immense as far as the cost to GPA. The difference between an A- and B+ will not be as detrimental, and will not encourage students who are already lax in their studies to try to acheive that A. This system should not be implemented at all.

1 I am an Honors College program student and I have a 3.83 GPA and I most definately feel that the current grading system is sufficient. I think that a change in this system would hurt more students than it would help and this is especially so for students who wish to attend a Graduate or Professional school and those students are the ones who

usually try the hardest in college. Therefore instituting a system that would be detrimental to their grades is ludicrous!

1 I am both staff and student. I am opposed to the plus/minus grading system. I've heard comments that a plus/minus grading system would encourage students to study and work harder. As a student I put all my effort into my classes and sometimes, regardless of how much effort I put forth, I just barely make an A. So the plus/minus grading system will not help, but could hurt students who are putting forth their very best effort already. Granted, there are some students who are only looking to pass the course, but to those students a plus/minus grading system would not encourage them to try harder anyway.

1 I am completely opposed to changing the grading system. The ONLY thing that a Plus/Minus grading system would do is successfully lower the student's G.P.A... It's TOTALLY unnecessary....

1 I am for this system. Some teachers now will not round up if you have an 89.9 they give you a 89. The new grading system may help w/ that.

1 I am highly against this grading system. I have a scholarship that I have to maintain, and if getting a 91, or an A minus, is going to count for less than 4.0 points, that could take it away from me.

1 I am in favor of instituting a plus/minus grading system. An "A" is simply not a one-dimensional thing. Students' grades should reflect the true nature of the grade, be it a minus or a plus.

1 I am in favor of the plus/minus system because I believe that it will give faculty more flexibility in assigning grades that more accurately reflect the work the students do in the course.

1 I am in strong support of the plus/minus system.

1 I am not in favor of changing to the +/- system. I think the current system is sufficient and allows our students to compete with those at other universities. I would not like our students to appear to have a lower GPA than students elsewhere when in fact the result is simply an artifact of a +/- grading system.

1 I am NOT in favor of plus/minus grading. First, what's the purpose of implementing a system that the majority of professors/instructors didn't use for either indifference or dislike. Second, it will hurt more students than it would help. I read Dr. Strow's argument as to why. He cites that 19 of the top 20 schools in the nation use it. NEWS FLASH: We are not a top school. We are a directional state school no matter how much frills you put on us. You can dress a pig up as a ballroom dancer, but it's still a pig. Nothing anyone here can do will put this school on the level of MIT and Princeton. But hey, I'm smart. I realize that no matter what the students say, if the administration decides to do what they choose, then the students are screwed over. So why ask anyone, because in the end, I know that it will be implemented anyways.

1 I am not in favor of the plus minus grading system. When you have an A, you've got an A. Now students will be pestering the professors over a single point, from an A- to an A, because it will effect their GPA. When all this could be avoided by keeping our current grading system. If it isn't broken, don't fix it.

1 I am not in favor of the plus minus system. I understand that a plus grade would raise a student's GPA, but how many points or what percentage would a student have to compile to constitute a plus/minus grade? Unless there is a campus wide rule on how you "earn" a plus/minus grade, I feel that it would be subjective depending on the instructor,

and would be harder or easier to earn depending on the class. I also think that when a student earns a plus/minus grade, it will be looked upon negatively. For instance, if a student earns a B+, their first thought may be "I almost got an A, but I missed it by a couple points." If a student gets a C-, they may feel trepidation or relief "I barely passed that class." I think the plus/minus system would stress a lot of students out when they wouldn't have to be if they just received a normal letter grade. The letter grade system is black and white, while a plus/minus system would be shades of grey, which Western students should not have to deal with, it would only add more stress to an already busy college experience. I had to deal with the plus/minus system in middle and high school and I disliked it. When my report card would come out I would always be questioned by my parents why I only got a B+ and not an A or that I was "lucky" to get a C- and not have to repeat a class. I could never really explain why I got a plus or minus definitively, I knew it had to deal with usually a handful of points, but my parents never understood that, and it just made me feel bad to see a plus or minus and not being able to change it, since it was always after the fact. I came to this university because I thought I could escape the drivel of a plus/minus system because it was juvenile, and now that I'm here, it may be implemented again. **DO NOT LET THIS HAPPEN!**

1 I am not in favor of the plus/minus system. An A should be an A and a C should be a C regardless of whether it is a high or low grade in that area. If you did this then you should put the actual number grade in.

1 I am opposed to changing the grading system. I do not see that there is sufficient need for it at the college level.

1 I am opposed to plus minus grading based on a couple reasons. First, most employers could care less what grading system a college is on, and most will not bother to look into it, or "read between the lines". It makes no difference. Second, this has been done in some middle school-high schools who have gone the same route only to find opposition. The opposition towards it is because the school at the next level does not use it as a tool for admissions. So if everyone does not use the same system across the board, it is useless. It HAS to be the same across the board or there is no accurate comparison. For example- if a student goes to a school with this in place vs. one student that does not and they are both applying to the college. Unless you plan to be in honors or go to an Ivy league school the public supported colleges could care less on admissions. And the third reason. In general it ruins the student's self-esteem. They are never either "quite good enough" to get that "plus sign" so constantly frustrated, or they have so much stress from trying to keep the plus sign. Negative connotations all around. This is a fact of human nature no matter how you slice it, it appears negative.

1 I am opposed to the proposal establishing a plus-minus grading system. As a student, I work as hard as I can in all my classes and going to the plus-minus system would hurt my GPA. Not all courses with the same title have the same course work, nor do all professors grade at the same level. This would cause disparity of grades between students in similar classes. Tests and graded items would need to be standardized in different sections of the same course for that close of a distinction between grades to be implemented. Believe me when I say that I would haunt my professors for each and every point taken away that could possibly be contested. The students that don't care between an A and a B won't care between an A- and a B+. The A students are the ones that would be harmed. If the plus/minus system were to be implemented, then students should be

able to correct their GPA with an A or A+. There is no prestige in having a plus-minus system. I am firmly convinced that you should leave well-enough alone and leave the grading system as it is!!

1 I am responding to your invitation for comments about the plus/minus grading system proposal. A plus-minus grading system has no positive impact on this university, its faculty, nor its students. WKU's use of whole letters is appropriate for the broad range of student grades, given its open admission standards. GPA's would be higher without it the plus/minus grading system.

1 I am unclear as to how implementing a plus/minus grading system will improve academic quality at Western. The same professors will be teaching the same information. The only variance that will result from such an implementation would be a change in the quality points earned from students' "progress" in the course. We are still going to receive the same quality of instruction regardless of how our grades are assigned based on our performance in various classes. If the senate is really interested in improving academic quality at Western, I have in mind a few professors who have wasted my time and my money! I know that professors have worked really hard for their doctorates and that they want freedom in choosing their content and their methods for teaching, but for the sake of academic integrity and concern for the time and money invested by students here at Western, it would really be beneficial to standardize these classes. In my opinion, the issue of academic quality isn't problematic because of the students. We pay our money and we attend classes with the expectation that we are going to be educated by an individual who is qualified to instruct us. If our efforts result in an A or in an F in a particular class, the grading system that is currently in place is effective in assessing performance. The problem with both academic quality and grading is with the professors. Some professors are wonderful. They are knowledgeable about the subject they are teaching. They choose appropriate methods of instruction and assignments that effectively convey the information that we have chosen to and have paid to learn. Their expectations for course performance are clear and their grading reflects strict adherence to the expectations they set forth. Unfortunately, some professors are not so suited for teaching. I don't see how they were ever given a degree in their subject area. They give ridiculous assignments that are in no way beneficial towards learning about the subjects we have chosen to and have paid to learn. Their methods of grading do not reflect any progress in the class (if there is any progress to be made in some cases). They have personality issues and if evaluated, could possibly need appropriate medication to alleviate mental conditions. Is the mental health of professors evaluated and monitored here at Western? I just can't believe how wonderful some professors are and how awful others can be. I wish Western would consider standardizing instruction in some manner that would better allow for consistent academic quality. If instruction cannot be standardized, I wish it were possible for students to have more thorough access to faculty evaluations. The SGA evaluations are so broad and ProfEval, which isn't officially affiliated with Western, isn't necessarily reliable either. Students should have an effective way of knowing what they are getting into before they sign up for a class because no one has time to interview four different professors for five different classes to choose the most mentally stable one. It isn't fair to pay for quality instruction that you do not receive. If the senate is really interested in improving academic quality at Western, I hope they will consider these comments I have made. I believe further investigation of the

assertions I have made will reveal that many others here at Western feel the same way I do. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute in the discussion of this matter.

1 I believe that the plus/minus grading system is a horrible idea. I think that in the end it would hurt many more students that would help. I am on scholarship at WKU and my sister that is trying to come to WKU has said that she will back out if it is introduced. I mean she would be stupid to come to WKU and get penalized for making an A (its not that easy even with "grade inflation") when she could go to UK or UL and receive 4 points for an A. If we want any chance of competing for students that are interested in UK or UL we can not add this system. That is just my opinion but I think that the introducing the plus/minus scale could be catastrophic!

1 I believe a plus/minus system would only help students with poorer grades and hinder students with better grades. Receiving an A+ is not very common. Students receiving an A without +/- would be penalized with their grade showing A- with a +/- system. A student with a B now could get a B+. The A student will probably not get an A+. Thus the +/- systems would reflect positively on students with lower grades and more negatively on students with higher grades. I do not think this is a fair representation of student effort.

2 I believe it is a mistake to switch to the plus/minus grading system. I believe that you earn the grade you receive. It may make transcripts, and other documents displaying grades look better or raise statistics but overall does it really show your accomplishments in understanding a subject? All that is being done is dividing up the grade system some more so people can feel better about themselves. I haven't done the research to determine if this would've helped my GPA or not so I have no bias opinion there. My opinion is based solely on the thoughts that if you divide the grading system again, then later down the road people are going to be unhappy with it again. Then there will be a call to divide it again into A/A-/A--/B+/+/B+/B...etc. When I question if someone understands a subject isn't based on division of grades anyway. I like the idea of "Go/No Go". If you understand more than half the subject, you pass. If not, try again. I don't believe letter grades matter, but it does matter if you understand the subject. So if you need to rate yourself against others, to make yourself feel better, then fine, use the A/B/C/D/F grading system. But if you really have so little self-esteem that you have to say "Well, I made a 89% and that's close to an A so it should be considered an A" then you have other issues. It was determined that 100%-90% is an "A", not 89% or 88%. So stop the whining, go ahead and hurt some feelings, and stop lying to yourself. If you earned an 88% or 89%, suck it up and accept the "B" that you earned!

1 I believe it would only do harm. Teachers would have to deal with the switch (which is an even bigger hassle for them with the rolling system) and the negative impact on grades could reduce students' chances to get into graduate schools. Those students, who really care about their grades, generally have harder classes and are therefore more likely to get the minus grades. This could also cause loss of scholarships, leading to higher drop out rates. Keep it like it is.

1 I believe that plus/minus grading is turning into a huge ordeal for the campus with little to show about the institution of it. Having been a student who has attended universities with both plus/minus grading and without, there is little reason to begin it. If we wish to make ourselves a "better" college or seem more challenging to our students

(perhaps even more "elite" to some people?) than we should have stricter guidelines for original acceptance to Western and GPA required to be a student in good standing.

1 I believe that Plus/Minus hurts students. I have seen the numbers and it does. It may help control grade inflation, but isn't the most important part of college to learn and grow and be prepared for life outside WKU. Plus/Minus could ruin college for many people, including losing scholarships, KEES money and harming self esteem. I do not support Plus/Minus.

1 I believe that the plus minus grading system would hurt more than it would help. I believe once all the information is gathered and assembled each student in the incoming class should have the option of choosing which they prefer. Once this system has been set up, the one with the most choices wins. This would be the easiest way to implement which way the students prefer. However, I think it should only be applied to incoming students and those after, not existing students.

1 I believe that the plus/minus grading system is a complete waste of time. The only purpose for the system that i can see is to decrease GPA scores and inflate the egos of over-achieving students. I am student who makes very good grades with a GPA over 3.0 and i do work hard to maintain that GPA however under a new plus/minus grading system my GPA could and probably would drop. The bottom line is college students are not in high school any more and nobody cares about a plus or minus sign attached to your grade, and our future employers will say the same. an employer is only going to care about is do you have a degree for the field in which you apply and did you do well in college. Not did you make B+ or A- in biology 101. I believe that if you work hard then your grades will show for themselves, meaning either you make a good grade or you don't. A plus/minus symbol will only make it that much harder to make a decent grade in any class.

1 I believe that there are way too many flaws with the plus minus system to implement it now. While I know I would not be directly affected by this system, I do not want it for our incoming freshmen and I believe by implementing this system, you aren't giving the young faces of Western a chance because their GPA's will suffer because of this change.

1 I believe that this is not a wonderful idea. The grading scale should be left as. It will greatly lower the scores and GPA's of many people and make it harder to obtain a higher GPA. Therefore, I believe that the grading system should be left as it is! Thank you.

1 I believe that this would be a good system to put into place. For the competitive entry programs it would make GPAs much more accurate and make entrance into these programs more fair.

1 I believe that unless the standards for scholarships and financial aid are changed, then no quality points affecting GPA should be implemented. There are several students who struggle to place into certain classes and maintain certain GPAs in order to stay in school and many borderline students could be adversely affected by a quality grading system.

1 I believe that we should retain the system that we have now--no pluses-minus grading.

1 I believe the grading policy should stay the same. If anything should be changed I recommend A+/A/B/C/D/F as a way of recognizing outstanding students but not penalizing everyone else.

1 I believe the plus/minus system would benefit students at WKU. The five grade system is a huge head ache and I have heard many professors say they would rather give the plus/minus system to students to help GPA standings.

1 I believe the system is a good thing because it enhances the exactness of the evaluation given to the student through a grade. For even better results, implement a 10 decimal system! You could get a 3.4566799012 Grade in a class, which would be very accurate at evaluating your performance.

1 I believe that it should be left just like it is, as it has worked for many years without a problem. It's not broke so why fix it.

1 I can see no benefit to having a +/- grading system. The five grade system has (and would continue to have) no drawbacks.

1 I disagree completely with the +/- system because it ends up helping no one. On average, grades would have declined in the previous attempt on campus due to this system. I know mine would have. That A- in Calculus I made would have broken my 4.0 my first semester of college instead of on my fourth. And the data shows that I am not alone here. The only argument that I see that is pro +/- is the egotistical idea of promoting prestige for WKU. The fact of the matter is, I don't believe that this has the students' interests in mind, but is in fact a selfish endeavor. And in the long run, I do not believe that a +/- grading system would actually increase the prestige of the school. It would simply decrease student GPA and potentially hurt a student's chance of getting into a decent graduate program. My suggestion is to completely abandon the idea. Not enough students support the idea. Not enough faculty support the idea. It would be an enormous risk that likely would not pay off.

1 I do not agree with implicating the plus and minus system! The system we have has worked for years and will continue to for our university.

1 I do not feel that plus/minus grading is a good idea. It will make it harder for students to keep their GPA's up, which not only hurts the students, but also the way people will look at the University.

1 I do not feel that there is a need to do plus/minus grading. To my knowledge most colleges and universities don't use it, however, I could be wrong. But, I don't see why it would be necessary because who would actually look at our transcripts to see if the grade was a plus or minus and why that would matter or affect anything?

1 I do not think that WKU needs to implement the +/- grading system. I have talked with students from other school who have this system and they have shared much neegative feedback from it. Also, I think that it is good that if we do switch to this that current students will not be forced to abide to its grading system- rather, it is their decision.

1 I do not like the plus/minus grading system and hope that I will not have to be part of it.

1 I do not like the plus/minus system because there is not an A+, so someone who really had an A+ would only appear as an A. When compared to someone with a B+, the B+ looks far better than it should.

1 I do not see a significant advantage to the plus-minus grading system. Leave the "five grade" system in place.

1 I do not see the point in changing the grading system. I am against this change.

1 I do not see the point of the plus minus system. An A should be an A. Just because someone makes a 100 and I make a 90, I want to see an A not an A-. I probably worked as hard to receive that A and dont want a minus to take away from my hard work. I honestly believe this system is more confusing than the regular one, and what effect is this going to have on your GPA? Will an A- still be worth a 4.0 or is it a 3.8 for that class? I just dont understand what the problem seems to be with the old system. And on another note. Being a transfer student from UK,it was hard enough trying to get everything transferred since Western does not accept some of the classes I had. It is going to make it even harder for people to transfer if the next university they attend does not have the plus/minus scale. I think if this system is implemented than it should have to be all the colleges and universities that way everything would be the same. Its kind of ridiculous as it is that Universities within the same state do not accept GPA's received only hours. This hurts those of us who have to transfer because Western does not offer every degree option.

1 I Do not support +/- system as it only leads to pressurize students to score higher on their assignments and exams instead of gaining a better understanding of the subject .

1 I do not support the +/- system in any way shape or form.

1 I do not support the decision to implement plus/minus grading. I would consider not attending Western over the decision to change to plus/minus.

1 I do NOT support the move to a plus/minus system. I agree with Dr. Burch's assessment. Please spend your time on more pertinent issues.

1 I do not support the proposed plus/minus grading system.

1 I do not support this proposal. I will never believe that it will help all students on campus. It proven this hurts more students then helps them. I personally would be affected and then it would hurt me as well.

1 I do not supportthe plus-minus grading system since it has no evidence to support about the advantage. In contrast, it will worse students' GPA. I think the present grading system is good enough.

1 I do not think it is a great idea. There is no problem with the current grading system, and implementing the new system will only hurt current WKU students.

1 I do not think that a plus/minus system is very practical. If you get an A then you deserve an A not an A+ or an A-.

1 I do not think the grading system should be changed to plus or minus. Because when you are a student you are working hard to do your best the acheive a A or a B.

1 I do not think the plus-minus grading option should be implemented, because teachers differ in difficulty-level and sometimes do not give out "A's" but will give out "A-'s". Those who work hard for those "A-'s" get straight "A's" in the five-point system. The plus-minus system makes students dread a challenge because they are not rewarded for the labor put into a difficult class.

1 I do not think WKU should switch to the plus-minus grading system. It takes an extreme amount of work to make good grades, and to have them punished by recieving a minus is not fair to students. We should keep the grading system as it is now.

1 I do not understand what the benefits of the +- will be. I know that Western wants to increase the students GPA..but what if Western stopped letting student into the university who make a 13 or a 15 on the ACT. Maybe then people's academics will increase because they will not have these students lowering the university's overall GPA.

1 I don't agree with the idea of switching to plus/minus grading for multiple reasons. Firstly, I think it penalizes the top students by not giving them credit for high A's. If we are so worried about low achieving students being given credit for not doing as much as the high achieving students, then we need to reward the high achievers as much as penalize the low achievers for the sake of being fair. Further, if we're getting so picky about stratification of grades, we should remember that grade systems are arbitrary and even more specific grading systems will still have groups that are treated equally unless we go purely by percentages. That being said, I think that focusing so much on the letter designation is taking away from the point of school. Isn't higher education supposed to be more about making the experience the best you can on your own, i.e.: minus the hand-holding? Plus minus to me is focusing on the letters and not what the students are learning. If teachers are interested in having a more specific curve, they can do that on their own. I think plus/minus just encourages more grade-worship instead of the acquisition of knowledge.

1 I don't agree with the plus minus grading system. Why implement a system that hurts rather than helps students. I believe +'s should be recognized but not -'s.

1 I don't agree with the plus/minus grading scale. From the research I've done, including talking to students enrolled at universities with a plus/minus scale, it hurts more of the student population than it helps. It doesn't make sense to go to a grading scale that would hurt more than it would help. Also, the "rolling" makes sense, but it seems like it would be extremely complicated, at least for the first several years. I would not want to be on the faulty and have to worry about which students were graded which way. The system that is in place now works fine, why change it?

1 I don't agree with the plus/minus grading. I mean it may be good for a few number of students, but for the most part, it would be horrible. I just don't think that Western Kentucky University should succumb to this nonsense!!

1 I don't agree with this at all. I think A, B, C, D, F is clear enough for everyone to understand.

1 I don't agree with this because it will bring down my gpa. and to be completely frank it will more than likely bring down a lot of my friends gpas also.

1 I don't believe that there are any advantages to having the plus/minus grading system. It can only hurt students grades and cause more work for the already overloaded professors. Why fix something that isn't broken? No other public University has made this system work so lets not follow in their failures.

1 I don't believe that this grading scale would benifit students at all at WKU. I believe that it would do exactly opposite, and bring down students GPA. Students work very hard to recieve their grades, and if they recieve a 90, then it should be an A because those students worked just as hard as the students that recieved a 99. They just may not be as good of test takers. I believe that students have to work very hard to recieve good grades, and by changing the grading scale you will make it almost impossible for a student to succeed with grades that they want.

1 I don't feel that the plus/minus system is a good idea at all. It give teachers more situations to give subjective grades and the margins between grades are so much smaller. It is already hard enough for some students to get the grades they deserve.

1 I don't feel the plus/minus system would have enough positive impact to merit it's implementation.

1 I don't like the idea of a plus-minus system because I believe it would hurt more students then it would help.

1 I don't like this grding system. I think an "A" is an "A", a "B" is a "B", a "C" is a "C" and so on. In college I don't think it even matters how many points into the letter grade you got as long as you, the student, are happy with your prformance in the classroom. Especially when that student has worked their tail off to make an "A" in the class, and then someone comes along and puts a minus sign next to it; it is like they are trying to take away something from that "A". So to answer the original question, I DO NOT like the plus/minus system!

1 I don't personally think that the plus/minus grading system should be implemented. My main reason in believing this way is because I feel that it would hurt the students instead of help them. I understand that this University strives for excellence, but I don't see how implementing this system would help. I believe that it would undermine the strength of Westerns overall GPA. Not only that it would make an A almost an unattainable goal unless teachers started grading easier. I know that from my personal experience that making an A (while difficult) is something I can do. With that A I know that I can keep my GPA hovering in the 3.8 area with no problems. If an plus/minus system is implemented a true A would be impossible to obtain (unless teachers relaxed on their exams and grading procedures). If the exams are easier then an A loses the value that it has at the moment. This in turn hurts Western in the eyes of the nation as a top College. In conclusion it appears that that a plus/minus system of grading is an unrealistic idea. It would not implement the goals that the University is striving towards. Benjamin Cannon

1 I don't see any need to switch systems now. The one we have works great. As a traditionally A student, there is no benefit for me. With no A+, the only thing it could to me would be hurt me if I got an A-. I guess if I got a B+ that would be better than a B, but I don't plan on getting any of those anyway.

1 I don't see that the plus-minus grading system would make that big of a difference. It only categorizes the grades into a lower or higher catagory. I think just the letter grade is sufficient. Thanks for asking the student's opinions.

1 I don't think it is a good suggestion to us. Plus-minus system must not work! If it does, then many students will get under big pressure and it will definitely affect a student's grade. I strongly disagree and go against plus-minus system.

1 I don't think it needs to be revised. I like the grading system the way it is with the five grades. It may not always be fair to some people on the extreme ends of the grade, but I think it evens out in the end. Also, it would be more difficult on the professors. People who got an A- might try to ask for an A. Or people who got a B+ might try to ask for an A-. I think it would be more trouble than it's worth. Just because many large schools have their grading systems like that does not mean Western should. I came to this school because it was smaller and unique, and I wish it would stay that way, instead of trying to become a copy cat of other universities.

1 I don't think that a plus minus grading scale will really make our stand out from any other school in the area. So I don't think it is necessary to institute this system. It would be a major mistake. I think that it won't bring people to western it might actually draw people away.

1 I don't think that it would be a very good idea. It would hurt those students that were excited just to get a B in a class. Though it might make them work harder for their grades.

1 I don't think the system should be changed. And what about someone like me. Would I have the option of staying on the 5 grade system. I started in winter of 2008. I wasn't here in the fall. Where would I land in this. The plus/minus system adds nothing to the classes anyhow. It is just another way of students saying "ha, I'm better than you."

1 I don't think we should have something like this. If you work hard enough to get the grade you should get the full grade. And your gpa should reflect that.

1 I don't understand why the grading system needs to be changed at all. If students are transferring to another college (if they move, for example,) other schools may not accept a grade if they received a 'C-' instead of a 'C'. This would not be beneficial, as the student would have to repeat a class that wouldn't be necessary if the original grading system had been kept.

1 I dont like plus and minus grading, so im going to keep mine the same. its much simpler and will be better all together. Leave it alone.

1 I DONT think the plus-minus system is a good idea I think we should keep things they way they are now!!!!

1 I favor the implementation of the +/- system. A student with a B at 89% is far above a student with a B at 80%. A student who received a series of earned B+ grades should have a much better GPA than one with an average of 80%. Current students should be able to take part in the new system by choice. (A percent system would be far, far easier, but that's a whole other discussion!)

1 I feel like with all the other more important things to worry about on campus- like crime, vandalism, right to carry, getting rid of the men's soccer team, the way our tuition money is spent, ect. -Why is the plus/ minus grading system getting brought up again?? Esp. when all the students were told last year that the topic was voted against! I just feel like this only helps the small percent of students that are at the very top, and hurts everyone else. I would definately vote against the plus/minus grading system!

1 I feel that a + - system shouldn't be put in place. I feel there is no need for it. A "B" is a what it is ! Why should we complicate things and put more stress on students. I feel this is not a priorty and we should be focus more on programs, tutoring and making sure students finish their degee at WKU. I'm very much again the + - Grading system. I'm a non-traditional student and feel that students are being required to much of them. Some students stress to get an "A' If a student get a "A-" will they feel like a Failure? I believe it only a negitive setback for education.

1 I feel that the + - Grading system has no relevant value in higher education. I remember getting A+ and A++ in Kindergarten and it felt great then but now that I am a mature adult such frivolous things really are meaningless to me. So I think the +- system should be done away with completely.

1 I feel that the plus/minus grading will just cause more stress to those trying to keep scholarships and grants along with other students who view their GPA as an

accomplishment. These students already put themselves through stress for personal "perfection", the plus/minus grading will just add more stress and you will soon see your top students burn out and drop out. I am against the plus/minus grading system.

1 I feel that this plus/minus grading system is very fair. I think that it is a great way to motivate a greater percentage of the population to work harder. I like the Rolling basis of implementation.

1 I find the plus and minus system would only cause problems for both professors and students alike. As a student I don't want to have to worry about whether my grade has a plus or a minus attached to it. In my mind I got an A or a B then I deserve the full points associated with that grade. I do not want to sit around think well I got an A-, I've could have done so much more to get that A. We as students have to much on our plates as is and its highly unfair to add more onto it by making us worry about getting a plus instead of a minus. Shouldn't we be encouraged to be proud that we got that A or a B in the first place. Don't bring that accomplishment down by taking a half of a point of because we got a minus instead of a plus.

1 I fully agree with the Senate, "there does not seem to be, at this point in time, a sufficient and sound basis on which to change the grading system." I think the grading scale has been doing a fine job as long as it's been going, which is pretty long. I mean, really. Leave it be!

1 I hate "plus-minus" grading

1 I hate plus/minus!!!! NO!!!!

1 I hate the plus/minus system

1 i have a mixed opinion about this issue.....i graduated western two years ago with a 2.1.....im now back on the hill to try to get a teaching cert.....which u have to have a 2.5.....so right now i do not want a plus/minus system cause i can raise my gpa easier the way we have it now.....on the other hand if i wasn't trying to do that im all for a plus minus system UNDER ONE CONDITION.....we don't even have a law school medical school and i mean pharmacy dental and all that stuff and very few Ph.D programs.....so until we get our graduate school "beefed" up a little bit lets just keep it the way it is

1 I have been enrolled off and on in college courses for over twenty years. I believe keep it simple so I am for a "five grade" system. I believe I can understand how to average my score and know what I actually made in any class. However, I really enjoyed hearing from one of my professors who said if he could, he would give me an A+ for my practicum.

1 I have both worked at universities/colleges as well as been a student at several, and the best grading system I have come across was a plus/grade system, which had A/B+/B/C+/C/D+/D/F. No minus. Everyone seemed to like it. I think it is easier for a professor to objectively give a student a + or a grade, but with a minus option it might muddy things a bit, as it just doesn't look good regardless of the grade (a minus has negative connotations, a plus doesn't). I think there might be hesitation to give students an overall minus grade, and I don't think students would like to see a lot of minus grades on their transcripts.

1 I have no real feeling either way. Currently I give them an A if they get 90% or above. IF we have this I would mak 90-95 an A-. Neil Bradley

1 I have one question. Where is the "A+"? This grading scale can only hurt students that strive for straight A's. I understand that the university does not want anyone to receive more than a 4.0 when they graduate; however, I do not see how this benefits the upper level students. Put an "A+" in the grading system and I might think about it.

1 I have taught in the plus/minus system and our faculty is underestimating the problems. EVERY student will be one or two points away from the next grade point -- this is a huge issue for faculty that we are not facing. Most of my grading is projects and essays (upper level) and +/- is inappropriate. I had no idea we are pretending that +/- grading will "raise our academic quality". That is the same thing as saying if we had fancier robes at graduation our students would be smarter. Geeeeeeeeeee

1 i highly disagree with this proposal of the +/- system.

1 I honestly believe that an A is an A and a B is a B. Students already have enough to worry about why add more to their plate with adding plus and minus. I think that they should just leave it along.

1 I know the knew grading system would not matter to me since i still get to stay on the current grading system, but i do not see the point of changing the system now. If it is changed, I think it will be harder for future students to get into their desired programs. I am a freshman at WKU and have to reapply to the nursing program at the end of my sophomore year. Right now it is hard enough for me to make all A's and that is practically what I need to get into the program. If I had to deal with the plus/minus system, I would probably have a lower GPA and that would not help out in the long run when I have to reapply to the nursing program. So no, it do not think that we should have the plus/minus system enforced in the following years.

1 I like the idea of plus/minus grading as long as it is fair. We need an A+. What is the motivation to try harder when you do not get creidt for it. If you have a B+, C+, you need an A+.

1 I like the part about anything lower than an A but for someone who has to keep up their grade point average for scholarships, if I make an A- I want the 4.0

1 I like the plus/minus system the best.

1 I like the system we have now, I think it would only hurt grades instead of helping them.

1 I only wish it had been implemented when I had entered in Fall of 2004.

1 I oppose the plus/minus system.

1 I perfer to keep the grading system the way that is.

1 I personally am opposed to any plus/minus grading system. I feel as if people are trying to fix something that isn't broken! Leave it alone until there really is a problem that needs to be fixed; in which case the senate or board of regents can spend time and money trying to resolve the issue.

1 I personally feel that implementing a plus-minus system on the students would have a negative effect on the majority of the students grades. However, if a A+ was added to the system, I might would feel differently.

1 I personally oppose the plus-minus system. I have had experience taking classes at different Universities, in different states, which had both systems. I believe it would be best, in the long run, to keep the solid "five-grade" system. A plus or minus on a grade could make or break a students grade point. If it remained as is, there would be no confusion. Believe me!

1 I personally will not switch to the new system because I believe the old system is sufficient. Plus/minus systems cheat students that worked hard for a 92 or 93 out of the 4.0 gpa they deserve. Thanks. -MD, WKU sophomore

1 I prefer the A, B, C, D, F system, that is, not a plus/minus system.

1 I really don't see how this plus minus system will be good for anyone's GPA. I would just leave the "five grade" system alone.

1 I really think it would only improve the competition on a campus where academics are very highly regarded, making a 4.0 more prestigious. I don't think that the +/- system would be a good implementation for Western, because all it would do is lower the GPAs for most students, and with the push for the sports program and a large student population, this would not be a draw.

1 I see no reason to change the grading system. It would just mean more students contesting their grade due to the higher number of grading subdivisions (nine versus four).

1 I see nothing gained by implementing a plus-minus grading system. A C grade is average regardless if it is high or low. Why modify a system that is serving its purpose effectively?

1 I strongly disagree that we should implement this system. Overall, I feel it would hurt more grades than help them. It would make students think twice about coming here!

1 I strongly support the +/- system. It offers students a more accurate reflection of the grades they are earning and helps them to see their real progress, whether in a single course during a semester or over their entire college career. Also, this system will help students applying to high profile internships and grants or seeking admission to graduate programs in all fields because our students' transcripts will now conform to the academic standards used at most colleges at our level and above. The +/- system will raise the academic profile of WKU and make our students more clearly competitive on a state, national and international level. I support the grade distribution as outlined above and the rolling system beginning in Fall, 2008 and the option to offer current students the option of opting into the plus/minus system. However, I feel strongly that all faculty be required to use the +/- system rather than allowing faculty opt-out.

1 I support a suggestion made previously to have + and flat grades with no -. Indiana State Univ. does it that way and it addresses those people who think they would be "penalized" by getting the minus grades they earned by doing the minimal effort instead of the flat grade for that range. It would highlight efforts above the ordinary.

1 I think if we are going to have a plus-minus grading system, there needs to be an A+ offered. Also, I would be more interested in learning what kind of points would be offered for each plus and/or minus. (For example, is a B+ worth a 3.75 or just a 3?) Unless I agree with the point system under plus/minus, I still support the current system, though.

1 I think it is admirable that WKU seeks a place among prestigious universities, but it seems to be doing it in a very silly way. Yes, nationally renowned schools have a 5 point grading scale and Division 1 athletics teams but they also have elite faculty who are at the forefront of their fields...that is why those schools are great. They also attract an upper-middle/upper class demographic. It seems to me that Western's primary demographic are students from the academically under served communities surrounding it, and changes like these make it seem like Western is trying to have its cake and eat it

too; not making the actual institutional shifts needed for an elite university while donning its vestiges. When I'm confident half of my PHIL 120 class can read at a 12th grade level, I will endorse a 5 point grading scale but not a moment before.

1 I think it should stay the same - "five grade" system.

1 I think it's a mistake. It's already hard enough to get the basic 4.0 GPA. Now you're wanting to make it even harder? Yeah it might help those who are constantly getting low grades; but as for those who are always trying for the best grades, it will be even more difficult than before to attain the higher GPA. It's ridiculous that grades should be broken down so thoroughly, when teachers try to claim that the grades don't matter. That's a lie. Grades seem to be the only thing that matters, especially at a large college such as WKU; where teachers often don't even remember your face after being in their class for a whole semester. So don't make it more difficult for people to get a higher GPA than it is currently.

1 I think that changing the grading system would be a waste of time for all teachers and meaningless to students. When you go out to get hired for a job employers don't care if you had a B+ or B- in any subject area.

1 I think that if the students already here have the option to continue under the "five grade" system until they graduate, then it wouldn't be that horrible. Those of us who are here are used to being graded that way and if it was changed that would really mess up some people. As for the people coming in that would have to have plus/minus grading, I don't think it would really make a difference to them because they wouldn't have been used to anything else. I do think that it would make it more difficult on the professors though because everyone would be graded two different ways. That seems confusing.

1 I think that implementing the plus/minus grading scale would encourage more students to work harder because an A would be more heavily weighted as an A+. I really think it should be put into effect!

1 I think that is rediculus. How many people actually achieve 100% in the classes they take. For the adverage student getting an A takes a lot of hard work. I do not think we should get a lower GPA just because we achieved a 92%. This system is only rewarding to people with great greats not for those students that work really hard to get the A's. No one I have talked to seems to think this is a good idea. It wasn't voted for last year and i think that it should be left in the past. The student body made it clear last year that they did not want this to be in effect so why is it still a topic of discussion?

1 I think that it is a dumb idea. We are not the ones you should be talking to anyway. You should be talking to incoming/potential students about it. You can't do plus/minus grading to someone who is about to graduate.

1 I think that the current grading (non plus and minus) is fine, and I see no need in changing it. It has worked fine in the past, and is working fine now. If it ain't broke, don't fix it!

1 i think that the plus/minus grading system adds pressure to the students to achuieve the solid A rather than an A- or to ensure that they reach a B+ and don't have a B-. Therefore, as a student, I support maintaining our current grading system.

1 I think that the plus/minus grading system is a bad idea because it completely negates the extra work needed for the A+ and will therefore prevent students from working to their potential.

1 I think that the plus/minus system should be optional for everybody. Although it is a system that can positively affect your GPA, it can also affect students negatively. As of right now, I am able to choose whether or not I want to be a part of the plus/minus system, which for me, I won't be taking part of it. And I believe that everybody should have their right to whether or not they want to participate in this complex system. I mean, this is our GPA, it can affect the rest of our lives.

1 I think that the plus/minus system should be put to use now in college. I don't like the fact that someone who just barely made a certain letter grade gets the same gpa as someone who has worked very hard and recieved a much better grade in the class, but it still fell into the same letter range. If the plus/minus grading system would have been in effect last semester my gpa would have been better and I wouldn't have to get a 4.0 this semester to keep my scholarship.

1 I think that this is a horrible idea. While I am already at college student, therefore allowing it to be optional for me, I don't think it is fair for the incoming students. Future students would have to work harder for the grades same grade their older peers are receiving. However, it would also not be right to change the system for students already attending school. The way I view the situation is an A is and A; I don't care if my A is an A+, as long as it is an A.

1 I think the "five grade" system should stay in place. I feel students have enough stress worrying about grades. Adding +/- would just add unnecessary stress.

1 I think the best grading system would do away with letters, and simply go from the percentage grade of the class to the GPA. For example, completing 88% of the class work of a course would net 88% of a perfect 4.0, or 3.52 GPA for the class. Barring that, I think as long as all A's (A+, A, A-) still carry the 4.0 GPA, the plus/minus system will work fine. Please keep in mind how competitive Graduate schools are. Making it harder for students to get higher GPA's will not be good for the students, or the school.

1 I think the current grading system is fine. +/- rewards students that take easy majors and get high A's. +/- will only add to the stress that many students already have. I am currently trying to maintain scholarship, this proposal would just make things worst for the majority.

1 I think the grading system is fine the way it is. I think the ones who would make an A- work just as much as the ones that would make an A+, And so on for the rest of the grades. What you might find is a quick decline in your students GPA's, which in turn may affect the outlook of the school. It may also affect the decisions of your potential future students.

2 I think the grading system is great and we don't need to revise it.

1 I think the grading system needs to stay as it is now and has always been at WKU: A,B,C,D & F. As a former student, I am not at all in favor of the plus/minus grading system! After all, this is about what the student's want not the University Senate. The student's are the reason why all of us have jobs at WKU. If they do not want this new grading system then I think the University Senate needs to drop this issue completely and immediately!!!!

1 I think the plus minus system would be better for the students in the long run. Prof. prefer and as well as teachers! Why not give them what they want for once!

1 I think the plus-minus grading system will hurt WKU more than it will help. Overall GPA's will be lower. If an A- isn't a 4.0 anymore than alot of scholarships will be

lost and grades will suffer. As a student I know I wouldn't want to be a part of this grading system so I would like to give voice for the people enrolling in Fall 08 and say NO to this system.

1 I think the plus-minus system of grading would be an advantage to the students. It isn't fair that right now you get the same amount of points on your GPA for a 90% in a class as you would if you put in the extra effort and hard work and made a 96% in the class. It would give those who need it a boost in their GPA and it would make it less horrific (for lack of a better word) for a student who needed an A to get a B. It would still lower the GPA but not by as much. It would give a more accurate scale for grading by doing it every 5 points versus every 10 points -that's a wide range to try to go by. I'm all for the change!!!

1 I think the plus/minus grading system will have a negative impact on those choosing to enroll in WKU in the future. Frankly, I don't think anyone would choose to come to WKU and work harder to get an A, B+, C+, etc when they could do less work at another school and get the grade without the plus/minus grading. This new grading scale makes the WKU look like they're trying to be more prestigious than they actually are.

1 I think the plus/minus system is a mistake. I think that the incoming freshman should be able to decide if they want +/- not just force it on them like the two foreign language class requirements that I was forced to take.

1 I think the plus/minus system is ridiculous. By giving plus/minus options, you are potentially hurting the average GPA of the student body. Some people must struggle and fight to attain an A in a given class, and you are devaluing their effort by saying that they can only have an A- when they have fought so hard for that grade. If an A to an A- is the deciding factor in a GPA calculation, that can really mess things up for some students. If someone needs to keep a certain GPA to keep a scholarship, or to stay in a club or program on campus, and they lose it because of a minus next to an otherwise acceptable grade, that is unfair and ridiculous. Plus/minus is an elementary school system. If we're being thrown back to elementary school, I want my money back.

1 I think the plus/minus system would be a disadvantage to those students who work their noses to the ground. It would be unfair not to include the full scale of grades in plus-minus grading (the A+) when students want to make the best grade possible. I think the overall GPA will be deflated as well, which does not look good on student transcripts who intend to attend graduate school.

1 I think the proposed grading system, as stated above (Plus/Minus), should be implemented. Allowing instructors to differentiate between grades can help curb grade inflation. As an instructor, I currently award plus/minus grades for assignments. However, I am forced to convert those to the standard grading system when reporting final course grades. I have found that I am better able to assess a student's work with the plus/minus grading scale. I know from experience an A minus paper has much more in common with a B plus paper than an A plus paper.

1 I think the university should keep the 10 point grading scale with no plus/minus added. The current system allows for the compensation of faculty subjectivity in grading assignments, and is more beneficial to the majority of the students.

1 I think this is a good system. If these grades are going to appear on your transcript in this manner then I think it is a good way of going about things. In my experiences,

there is a huge difference in a 95 (A) and a 90 (A-) and I think that those who are working hard to get the A over the A- should be recognized as such.

1 I think this is a wonderful idea. I am glad it has been accepted. I am a student and will definitely be opting into this in the Fall of 2008.

1 I think this is ridiculous

1 I think we should have plus/minus grading because it will help GPA's!

1 I think we should keep the grading system the way it is.

1 I think we should leave the system as it stands. Being an honors student, you would think that I would feel it necessary to implement such changes, but I believe it only hurts students in most cases. Why would we try to fix something that is not broke?

1 I think its ridiculous. stay the way it is now!

1 I truly think that adding the plus/minus grading system will be more effective. When grades are posted, the student has no way of determining which end of the spectrum of the letter grade they are. For me, it would be very discerning if I thought I was a B+ and was actually closer to a B- because I would have a false idea of what my GPA actually was. I think giving the choice of which system you would like to be under would be a better choice than none at all.

1 I was under the impression that this grading system failed when it came to a vote. I must have missed the news when it passed. I just don't understand some teachers...if something they try doesn't pass the first time, they'll keep bringing it up. Obviously, students hate the idea of this system. It doesn't benefit a single student in the long run. Even professors in my department are rolling their eyes at this system. Maybe this should go to a vote one more time, and after it's shot down there shouldn't be a way to bring it back up for at least five or six years. Grades shouldn't be something students have to guess at or wonder about. If I make a 91, I don't want to have to guess whether that's an A or some kind of special A- or B+. You're making life more complicated for students...which makes you no better than student loan companies that keep raising interest rates. Thanks!

1 I went to UC Davis where they used this system and NONE of the students liked it. I believe it decreases incentive for students who are close to moving up a grade because the reward on their GPA is not as great. It won't affect me because I am graduating, but I would hate to see an adverse reaction from the students.

1 I whole-heartedly believe that the plus/minus grading system would be a step backwards in grading. It's true that it would reward those students who work hard to obtain tip-top grades. However, it would also punish those who struggle with certain subjects or areas. Furthermore, it would make getting a perfect 4.0 GPA that much harder. I believe our current system accomplishes the task of determining effort just fine simply because there are certain subjects that are tougher than others; I don't believe a plus/minus system would be any better indicator of the effort put in by students because some students excel in certain areas and struggle with others. A new system won't change that and will be no better reflection of "effort."

1 I would just like to say that I disagree with the plus/minus grading system. I feel this way because in most of my classes I find it hard to get a solid A in a class. As of now I have a 3.8 GPA: however, I believe that with a plus/minus grading system my GPA would be lower. I have worked hard for the grades I receive, and it would just add unnecessary stress.

1 I would like it if A+ also gets something.

2 I would like the grading system kept the way it is. Thank you

1 I would like to see my transcript be reflective of the standard university practice. That is letter grades only. It is really not necessary or productive to use a plus/minus system. The major institutions do not follow this practice. The plus/minus system reminds me of what you would see in a public school-or community college. I am very much against it.

1 I would like to see transcript reflect the distributions of grades in a class. Grade inflation is a bigger problem than plus/minus. If a student received an "A" but so does all 49 other students in the class it would look like this: Grade A (A=50, B=0, C=0, D=0, F=0) or if there was a grade distribution it would look like this: Grade A (A=15, B=7, C=10, D=13, F=5).

1 I would prefer not to have the plus/minus system of grading.

1 I would support the new grading system

1 I'm a staff member and a previous student here. I've said it before and I'm sure others have said it too. I'll just say this: I will guess that the only (or a large majority of the) people opposing the +/- system are the students. If that is true, then students are simply opposing the system because they'll have to work harder to get the same grade as before. If there are any teachers opposing the system because it means more work for them, that reason can be discarded. Improving the quality of education is obviously more important than having less work to do. If 9 out of the 10 top institutions in this country have this system, perhaps they have a reason to do so? The reason is simple: A student earning 98/100 is significantly better than the one earning 91/100. Yet in the current 5-grade system, both get the same grades. Does the student who scored 98 not deserve to be distinguished from the one who had 91 and just barely made it over 90? Our current system is embarrassing and immature. We might as well have a pass/neutral/fail system. More distinctions mean better and fairer grading. If students have to work harder to earn a certain grade, well so be it. It's a more fair system. We'll be joining the ranks of the top 10 institutions who also make their students work hard. To earn more money, you usually have to work harder and show more skills. It wouldn't be fair if everyone was paid the same no matter how hard they worked. It's the same situation here. The more defined the grade system is, the fairer and accurate it is.

1 I, personally, am happy with the current system absent of plus/minus grading. For those with a great grade, an extra plus does not make a significant difference, but for those with a grade that is ok or satisfactory without a plus or minus, with the addition of a minus the grade could psychologically appear unsatisfactory or even less valuable, when really it is not significantly different. For this reason, I enjoy the current system without plus/minus because, for example, if I have a B, it looks nice, but to receive a B- really would diminish the quality and satisfaction of the grade. Thank you so much this opportunity to share our opinion.

1 If anything I would recommend a common grading policy among ALL classes at WKU. I recieved two B's on my transcript for classes in which I earned 93's... Now I'm working on a graduate degree and am still upset about that... I think that we need to stick with what the majority of other universities are doing... because we could be selling our students short by placing them in the market with straight A-'s and a lower GPA than

their competitors with straight A-'s and a 4.0... I would be more concerned with equality between universities...

1 If I did want to put up with the pressures of the plus/minus system, I would attend a more prestigious institution than Western. I know WKU is trying to be more prestigious by doing this, but it could never be an Ivy League school. No one wants it to be. This school is great and challenging as it is.

1 If it "ain't" broke, don't fix it. We don't need a plus/minus system.

1 if it might improve a GPA, that's good, I really don't see any harm in not doing it

1 If some are in favor, and some are not, then IMPLEMENT THE SYSTEM! Those who want to use it will use it, and those who are opposed to it can assign straight A-B-C-D-F. If the system is implemented, we can keep everyone happy!

1 In all the discussion of the pros and cons of a plus-minus system I have not seen any information on the most important question in the whole issue: is plus-minus grading more accurate than the current system? The precision of the plus-minus system means nothing if we have no clear evidence that it is, in fact, more accurate. Such things as how it changes grades and of ilitte meaning without any information on accuracy.

1 In classes where there are a substantial number of points, the difference between an 89 and an 80 is substantial. My class is one of those and so I would not object to a plus/minus system. In classes where there aren't a substantial number of points (I should think at least 500) there will be problems when one considers error of measurement, etc. Honestly, I think the REAL issue we should be discussing is grade inflation and academic standards.

1 In collegiate studies I do not think that plus/minus grading is appropriate. Either a student will understand the work assigned or not. This may not sound fair but when a plus/minus is awarded it allows a fudge in the grading scale. For myself, when I know I have earned an 'A' I have earned it there is no surprise. The allowance for plus and minuses allow room for the student to not only argue thier grade more than before but more teachers to be leaniant and flex in thier grading. Would this not discredit the grade given? I do not for see this being a positive transition for WKU and legitimatizing their grades.

1 In my most honest opinion, it really doesn't matter in the least to me. An "A" is an "A" to me and a "B" is a "B". Seems to me to be much ado about nothing. A means whereby to confuse and complicate the grading system. My GPA is over 3.8 for reference.

1 In my opinion the current grading scale is satisfactory. To consider revising would be a hassle for all whom are already under the current grading scale. The transition from high school to college holds many changes for all. To change the system for the simple fact that james can show his parents a plus on his report card means nothing. If you get an A' it is still an A' regardless of it being a 90 percent or a 100. This proposal is simply childish and should be disregarded.

1 Instead of assigning A/A-, B/-/+ ect., why not just give a name to each grade? It might go something like this A=A A-=B B+=C, B=D, B-=E, C+=F, C=G, C-=H, D+=I, D=J, D-=K, F=L. Do you understand how ridiculous this would be? You are essentially doing the same thing with +/- grading. Obviously the students of this university do not want +/- grading, and obviously the faculty don't care what the students want. It's time the faculty realize they have a job because of the students, so they better be focused on the

students well-being instead of what would make WKU a more "prestigious " university. Who are you kidding? WKU will never be an Ivy League school, so stop trying. In the meantime, go ahead and implement my A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K grading scale. Make yourselves look even more silly than you already have.

1 it does not matter to me if the plus/minus grading system is passed; but if it does, A+ should also be added to the list, for near genius scores (say 98%/99% or more).

1 It does not seem like a necessary change. I am not sure that I see any benefit from a plus/minus system.

1 It doesn't seem to be worth it to me. It will not better distinguish between students who are doing very well or very poorly, but will only serve to distinguish between those who are already average. This only seems to hurt those students. On the new scale, students who try very hard, but still cannot seem to get it might be penalized with an A- or B- where on the old system they would have received an A or B. And by attaching different point values to the new ten grade system, students like myself who are on scholarship might lose the money they would have been able to keep on the old system. I know that theoretically this system could further motivate students to do well and keep their grades up. But sadly, for most students, college isn't the only thing going on in their lives. There are outside circumstances that can directly effect a student's performance at no real fault of their own. School stresses students out enough. We shouldn't have to worry about pluses and minuses. It should be enough to just get the grade.

1 It has already been shown that the plus/minus grading system is more of a detriment to students than it is beneficial. I can't believe so much university time and energy was wasted fighting for and against this silly system. There are so many other issues to focus on that would actually make a difference in students' lives. The plus/minus system misplaces priorities both in energy spent and in evaluation of the quality of student work. I have a 3.5 GPA and I in no way feel like my studiousness is not being recognized. The plus/minus system is yet another superficial, meaningless way to rank students. If administration doesn't feel we are ranked properly they need to come up with a more qualitative way to do it.

1 It is my belief that the +/- grading system is the most crucial issue to be discussed regarding WKU's policy in the past decade. This system is really the first step in a path toward national recognition, which seems to be the most important concern for our administration, often out weighing the actual concerns of students on campus. Instead of moving the football team to division 1-A, a 37 million dollar investment, a simple, free change to the +/- system would have actually gone further to solidifying this University's place among leading American institutions. This change combats grade inflation a problem which as a student I notice daily, how many students really deserve the 4.0 they get? With a greater range of grades at their disposal professors can better asses their student's final marks, also helping students on the cusp of a grade range allowing them to perhaps receive a higher grade, ie. a B- instead of a C. I believe that our administration has shown that they cherish money more than giving students a good foundational education for their future. A +/- system allows people to set small goals and shows that the administration is working to help students achieve success in the classroom. BY setting small goals those goals become easier to attain and from this people can continually set their goals higher because as you achieve you want to achieve more, for instance would you rather try and climb a latter that has rungs one foot apart or three feet

apart. While the climb on that three foot ladder may look appealing because there are fewer rungs in the end it becomes harder and harder to make it up each successive rung, while the student climbing the other ladder can easily and continually make their way up the ladder to excellence. As a college student I don't want to be assigned grades, rather I desire to earn them. With our current system I am given a grade that is the closest to my actual achievements, in such I earn nothing more than a certificate saying you were given this grade because you performed within some range. But with a +/- system I can truly say that the grade I receive is not a blanket covering me and half the student body but rather a grade that reflects the amount of dedication, energy and time I gave to an endeavor. Instead of being scoffed at by peers from other colleges because of not having a +/- grading system, which happens because the A,B,C,D system is looked at as inferior, I can stand among them proud of the marks I received. The only problem that I see with the system as proposed last year is that it has no A+ mark. I find this to be offensive, and also a slap in the face of the idea of a +/- system. If we are asking people to strive to attain higher goals we must give them the paragon to strive toward and not having an A+ on the grading system denies them the chance to show that they are truly the brightest students and worked extremely hard to achieve what they did. As such I believe that we as a University should switch to the +/- system post haste.

1 It is my understanding that the +/- system makes it in some ways harder to raise your gpa if it is not a 4.0. Yes I understand that a B+ is worth more than a B or a B-, but it appears that an A- (90) would not be worth a 4.0 as it is now. That means that a semester of all A- would not equal a 4.0 for that semester and in turn cause you to have a lower gpa under the plus minus system then having a 4.0 under the current system. Also that would mean in some cases that it would be harder for a student to raise their gpa and more than likely cause the campus to have a lower over all gpa average. Being a grad student I do not have to worry about this but, I do want to look out for my school and future students. It also appears that a plus minus system may make students more likely to transfer from Western to a school that does not have a plus minus system.

1 It is well beyond time to make our claims of being "a leading university with international reach" into a reality, instead of a marketing slogan. We need to implement plus/minus grading immediately, phasing in starting in Fall 2008.

1 It seems that with a plus/minus grading scale, some students may benefit. However, those students who generally receive A's would only be punished. The only way to make up for this would be either to eliminate the A-, or add the possibility of an A+, say 97-100, in which an A+ is worth more than a 4.0. In all I would recommend keeping the current system.

1 It's unfortunate that newcomers will have to work even harder to achieve the same GPAs as their predecessors.

1 its fucking lame

1 Just drop the plus/minus debate. Leave our grading system alone. Personally, unless I am penalized, I will not use it if it is adopted. It appears from the comments so far from the survey the university is split. Usually when that happens you drop an issue.

2 Keep it how it is, do not switch to a plus minus system

1 keep it how it is, do not switch to a plus/minus system

1 Keep it the way it is A and A and so on it would hurt gpa if you moved to this system

1 Leave the current grading system in place. I see no logical reason for a (+ -) grading scheme. I have not yet seen a college level educational diploma state that the graduate carried an A+, B-, etc. A GPA maybe. Lastly, no company I ever worked for ever asked (either in an interview or on an application) if I had an A-, C+, B etc; only a GPA.

1 Leave the grading system alone.

1 Leave things the way they are!

1 Let's get out on the cutting edge and use percentage points (0 to 100) instead of letter grades. It would allow the greatest precision of any existing system and it can be converted to letter grade equivalents for those who need the less complex method of representing "learning". To me it just silly to listen to PhDs argue about the difference a plus or minus makes....I wish the senate would take on more sophisticated and critical issues.

1 MAKE PLUS AND MINUSES MANDATORY!!!!!!! It fucking sucks when you bust your ass and get a 88 or something like that and you just get a damn B same as if someone else had got an 80. Wake up you cranky old fucks!

1 My fear with +/- is that with more distinctions comes more complaints over students who want the next increment; however, that isn't a sufficient reason to abandon consideration. I generally prefer the +/- system because more distinctions gives more flexibility. Currently, a student with an 89 average has to be i) given an A, making them indistinguishable from the 99.5 student, or ii) given a B, making them indistinguishable from with the 79.5 student. Neither is truly accurate.

1 My primary concern with plus/minus grading is its effects on students with a high GPA. I am a senior preparing to graduate in May, and under our current system I have a 4.00 GPA. During the trial period several years ago, I received two grades of A+, two of A-, and the rest were solid A's. It seemed that each of my A+ grades would cancel out an A-, allowing me to maintain a 4.00, but with the proposed system my GPA would've dropped. I believe that for every letter grade with a minus as an option (A, B, and C), there should also be a plus available to allow students to raise their average to a maximum possible GPA of 4.00.

1 My recommendation is to stick with the current "A B C D F" grading. As a graduate eMBA student, my employer reimburses tuition expenses based on the requirement that I earn a "B or better" in each course. No such provision exists for plus or minus grades. In other words...if I earned a "B-," my tuition reimbursement---and thus my continuing education---could be at risk.

1 No +/- Grading Scale... There is no reason for a state school to inhabit this grading scale... I will actually do everything I can to move to UK or ECU if this is carried through.

1 NO I DO NOT WANT THIS TO HAPPEN!!!!!!!!!!!!

1 no need for change

1 No one has ever substantiated actual facts that a plus/minus system works. Further, no one has ever substantiated that the current system doesn't work. For academics, who are supposed to be doing research, we are basing this potentially huge change on N=1 type of studies. Further, this type of academic change should be student led based on their input, as well.

1 NO PLUS OR MINUS SYSTEM!!!

- 1 no plus-minus grading system...the majority of students do NOT want it
- 1 NO PLUS/MINUS GRADING! LETS KEEP OUR GPA's HIGH!
- 1 No plus/minus system please.
- 1 no plus/minus!
- 1 NO to plus/ minus!
- 1 NO to the plus/minus system. As a practicing Registered Nurse pursuing an advanced degree in nursing, this would dramatically impact our particular field of study. During pre-licensure nursing classes, we had to make a 77% just to pass—below was failing. With the proposed plus/minus in nursing school, a missed question on one examination in each class could make the difference between getting into nursing school to begin with, graduating with honors, getting into graduate school, scholarship retention, obtaining internships, etc.
- 1 NO!
- 1 No! I think it is a terrible idea!
- 1 NO! This grading system is not helping the majority of WKU students, so why impliment it? "Don't fix what sin't broke."
- 1 NO!! to plus minus grading!
- 1 No, the grading system needs to stay as is and leave everything alone. I have heard that if the grading system is changed then the community college students would be affected the most and that just does not need to happen. We as the community college students are here because of at least two different reasons, 1) this is where the degree program is available or 2) the students did not have a grade point average that was good enough to be in class up on the "hill". I have just achieved the status of a deans scholar for the fall semester and that is just because I carried 12 hours for that semester, but will not have that number of hours again for the remainder of my college life, because I have only a few hours left to accomplish. So, Please do not change the grading system. I do not want to hear of any changes. The university has had enough bad news lately and this does not need to add to the news.
- 1 NOT A GOOD IDEA!!!! WHY CHANGE THE SYSTEM THAT WE ALREADY HAVE????????????
- 1 Not interested in = - system. What we have is fine. Splitting hairs & grades is just another way to subdivde shades of grade inflation.
- 1 Perhaps to make it more palatable to students, the grades should include an A+. Other than that, I am strongly in favor of a +/- system.
- 1 Personally as a student, I disagree with the plus minus system. As a current student I feel as if this would only help the best GPAs look better, while making the students who are barely making the grade look poorly. If someone made a grade, they made it. An A looks no less impressive either way. I feel as if this is a more negative turn for struggling students than it will be helpful for those whom are doing well.
- 1 Please do not change the current system. There is no demonstrable gain for anyone (students, faculty, administration) nor will it improve quality. The proposed grading scale was highly flawed (no A+,D+, or D-) and unsupported by data that it met any of the desired goals. The "rolling" system is a logistical nightmare for all. Please turn the attention of the senate to something substantive.

1 Please do not implement plus/minus grading. It has no value to students, makes grading a nightmare for certain disciplines, and creates unnecessary student complaints about how their grades were calculated. I see no value whatsoever in plus/minus grading.

1 Plus-minus grading is a waste. It is simply a headache for all involved.

1 Plus-minus systems really do not help students to learn any more than the traditional system. Emphasis should be on improving course concepts and outcomes rather than worrying about how and when to implement a new grading system.

1 Plus/Minus grading is a horrible idea. I do not support it and I will no longer support this university if it is implemented.

1 Plus-minus grading options are completely unnecessary. I feel that it will only exaggerate the extremes of a grade which offers very little gain in quality of student evaluation. The more simplistic grading system is a sufficient measure of performance, because if one struggled very hard to achieve a grade that is on the lower borderline, the minus sign will undermine the achievement, and provide graduate institutions more license to scrutinize minute weaknesses. Very unfair.

1 Plus/minus grading will just hurt students. It won't ever help anything.

1 Plus/Minus hurts students and I will never support this!

1 Plus/Minus is an excellent idea but parts of the University seem resistant to academic improvements. This proposal seems to have gathered the ire of those elements and is becoming a distraction from other matters. I support it but wish we could be looking at even higher aspirations.

1 plus/minus is crap....leave it like it is...why change an already unbiased, fair grading system? forget plus/minus all together!!!!!!!!!!!!

1 S.O.S for all educators and administrators. Focus on education and stop waisting your time and student's time by trying to find a solution for issues that are not that important. What are you trying to accomplish with the +/- grading system? Why does it matter. More than 50% of college graduates have grades not representative of their gained knowledge. And 30% of the 50% don't deserve any grade or don't belong in college anyway. But how would universities survive financially by being selective. How this grading system would improve education which should be your primary goal. Big number of faculty needs to be educated on teaching, knowing and teaching what you know are two different things. If I am a "B" student, and now I became a "B+" student, what does that indicate to an employer? What does it mean to me? What does it mean to you? Those are questions you must ask yourself before you start modifying things for the sake of change. Is a sanitation engineer an engineer or is that just a title, is a grade of "A" indicative of student's knowledge, if is not (most of the time is not) how can you justify that an "A-" will be? Try to have students and teachers performing a grading balancing act will be beneficial to no one. Improve the education quality first and then worry about accurately measuring it. Innovation does not constitute copying others. Set your priorities according to your situation and the institution's needs. Who cares about +/- grading, one more thing to give the impression that higher education is high. Focus on the quality of education, give back the meaning of college education and reset the high value of higher education. Thanks

1 Simple enough, don't pass it. Statistically, the plus minus grading system lowers the overall GPA, and those who are trying to get into graduate school would thus have a harder time getting accepted. Do note: It would not improve student efforts, you'll get the

same quality of students, just with a different GPA, plus minus won't fix the underlying effort required.

1 Since grading is so subjective, and there is no university standard for grading I do not see the relevance to creating plus/minus grading. I am an instructor for the University and also deal with this issue in local high schools. Unless a standard is established and EVERYONE does exactly the same thing, it does not seem feasible. Grading as it is is already questionable.

1 Some majors have grade scales which are already altered to make getting into the program more competitive. By having the +/- grade system, it is causing even more stress on the student in those majors. For example the grading scale in the major makes an "A" classified as 100-93, unlike the traditional 100-90. If western wants to "expect the best" why would they want to penalize individuals who earn A's.

1 Some things are clearly correct or incorrect. What's the square root of 16,249? What event in 1964 precipitated the large-scale involvement of U.S. armed forces in Vietnam? But how confident can an instructor be that a student's interpretation of Madame Bovary is worth 89.39 points? Or that a student's writing is worth 73.68 points? Plus-minus grading requires a reasonably objective scale, one in which different instructors marking the same papers would assign similar scores. In some of the physical sciences, and in areas such as accounting, such objectivity is possible. But much of what we teach is far too subjective to apply such "precision" in grading. Think "significant digits." Plus/minus would be a sham for many of us.

1 Sometimes grades are not always what designates the professionalism or actual learning accomplishments of an individual. I perhaps favor a + system to designate those who have excelled extremely, but omit the - to hold off further detrimental connotations to some students who may perform in their chosen profession as well as those with a few points gained higher from academics.

1 Stick with the five grade system!

1 The absence of a D- is a balance to the absence of an A+. I believe that to have one without the other would be a serious imbalance to either inflated or deflated GPAs. Not having a D- can be viewed as acceptable on the grounds that it does not provide any interesting information that is not already conveyed by a D. Not having an A+ can be viewed in the same light. To earn an A is already a high achievement and is a sufficient reward. We do not need A+ or super-duper-A++ to acknowledge high achievement.

1 The arguments listed on the senate's website for why WKU should switch over are pretty weak and not very compelling in my opinion. The majority of the document focuses on argument 3 and lists the top institutions that use this scale. It also states that 19 out of 20 of the top universities use the plus/minus scale. Let's be honest here and acknowledge that WKU is NOT Princeton, Harvard, Yale, etc... And that is not a knock on our school. It's the truth. If we are going to use those schools to base our decisions on then let's start doing the same for admitting students. If the goal is to be like these universities then the students who attend WKU need to have the same qualifications. We are not comparing apples to apples in this argument and thus is not effective in arguing why we should switch. I'll close with this example. A good ole' boy from Glasgow, Kentucky has a High School GPA of 4.0 and an ACT score of 30. Chances are he doesn't pay for a thing at WKU and chances are he does not get accepted to Harvard.

1 The belief that faculty grading is so precise that it can differentiate between +/- grades is rather arrogant. The inherent variability in exams, quizzes and non-standardized final exams (unless data suggest otherwise) makes assigning grades a very inexact process. Assigning +/-'s assumes faculty have a level of sophistication and precision in examinations that can defend the measurement differentiation or error. That's not likely to be true in most cases. Does not the Senate really not have more important business to address?

1 The best interests of the students are not being considered. Plus/Minus grades make it more likely that a good student could lose Scholarships or KEES money for grades that were previously accepted. This system may also discourage potential students from choosing Western. Why would someone prefer a B- for a 80.1% when then could receive a B at another University?

1 The five grade system has worked all of these years. Why should they do this only to make students feel bad about the grades they receive and lower our GPA? An A is an A, leave it alone. Our PR course discussed some students not choosing to attend Western because of this. If this is implemented, I will not attend WKU for my Master's degree.

1 The grading system that is in place now seems to be working well. I have kept informed on information about the new system. However, from a student point of view, an A is an A and so on and so forth. Implementing a new system seems to be something that really does not need to be done and would only cause more confusion when trying to keep up with a grade in a class.

1 The grading system will not affect me since I will graduate in Dec. 2008 and will stay with the "five grade" system. I am still not convinced that the plus/minus grading system is the best for the student. If the student earns an A then give him the full 4 points. We are in college and we should not be subjected to an elementary grading system.

1 The new proposed system seems to make grading much tougher on students who are consistently in the A/A- range while easing up on those students who struggle maintaining an acceptable grade point average. With professional and graduate schools more competitive than ever, it almost looks as if a student receiving an A- is being punished. The five letter grading system has been in place for countless years and works very well, no changes need to be made in that respect. In short, this proposed system penalizes those who give exceptional effort while catering toward mediocrity.

1 The plus/minus grading scale is not a good idea at all! why does it matter if a person get an A A+ or A-? They are all consider A's. This system will only make students GPA's drop!

1 The plus/minus grading system is ridiculous. The grade options are not consistent. A typical 'B' grade ranges from a 'B+' to a 'B' to a 'B-', whereas a D is simply a D without a plus or minus. This shows that there is no need to punish students who are already doing poorly, but that it is still okay to lessen a student's 'A' accomplishment by putting a minus sign after the grade. Also, the majority of students will not work any harder to get an A+ or a B+. The students already receiving A's will stress out more in order to keep their grades from having a minus sign attached to them. Also, the system makes it more difficult to get into graduate school and receive scholarships for those who need such.

1 The plus/minus grading system would be detrimental to some students grades. Those who plan on enrolling in vigorous programs such as nursing already will have an altered grading scale. When a grading scale only permits a 95-100 being an A receiving

less grade points for an a- (which would be a 95 and a solid a in any other course) would seriously hurt the students gpa's. There are also other majors and classes on campus which have similar grading scale alterations and plus minus grading would kill the students gpa's.

1 The plus/minus grading system would greatly help us as students when applying to top-notch Graduate programs at other Universities. The higher respectability gained by using plus/minus would help to promote students at WKU to other college's programs. If we expect to be a more academic school and compete with larger academic organizations, this is a requirement to increase the perceived view of an education from Western. Improvement in any academic institution is key, especially if we experience more budget cuts, this would be an excellent way to express our academic standing among larger institutions.

1 The plus/minus system hurts 2/3 of students and helps 1/3. I don't understand why our University would want to change to a system where it hurts twice as many students as it helps. Also the students are not being rewarded for A+. If WKU wants to be a leading University it first needs to look at raising the ACT score for incoming freshmen instead. Or using our money where it will be more beneficial to the MOST students and not completely cut a program out (i.e. Men's soccer). I know I jumped to what seems like irrelevant tangents, but in fact they are not. It only shows that right now our school is making poor choices and moving to a plus/minus system would continue as a poor choice. Last year SGA expressed how against the plus/minus students are. Thank goodness at least the Provost heard us. I don't understand why we still have to continue fighting this.

1 The plus/minus system seems way to complicated to me. If this switch is an imperative to the academic standing of the University it should be done. My concern is that last years study compared WKU to other Kentucky Universities rather than top ranked national universities. If we aspire to become a leading American University we must adopt the norms of the Ivy league universities, but we should take great care in changing our policies. I would support the move as long as it doesn't effect current students.

1 The plus/minus system would further seperate the students. Making it easier to determine the superior student. I am for the proposal.

1 The plus/minus system, while having good intentions, seems to water down the current grading system. And something else which appeals to the mediocre is one less thing we need in this society.

1 The profs would end up with students in the same class operating under different grading systems. Talk about a record keeping nightmare!

1 The proposal is not favorable to me.

1 The proposal would punish our A students. 90%=A=4.0 is the standard system. Why would we want to put our best students at a disadvantage by deviating from this standard? If we expect our students to compete with their peers from other institutions for graduate school admission, national honors, and other honors, awards, or positions which are awarded based on academic performance, we must allow them to compete on the same field and with the same rules as their peers.

1 The students who for the most part make A's and B's would not get much benefit out of this. I think that it is clear enough at the beginning of the semester what the

expectations are, and if you do not reach them, be happy with what you got or realize that you should have worked harder. This system will not reward those who don't slack off and actually earn their A. I am not a straight A student, and there have been a few cases where the new system would have helped me, but not rewarded the other students who put more time in than me. It would have decreased their points for that class regardless of their hard work. To me it does not seem fair to the students who are focused on school work.

1 The system proposed sounds too messy. How do you expect professors teaching all grade levels to remember which student is under which grading system? On top of this, not every professor is for the change, therefore not all professors would follow the different grading scale. They would continue assigning straight A,B,C..etc. It shouldn't matter which side of the grading scale a student reaches-whether it be an 82 or an 88. An 82 and 88 are both B's and shouldn't be distinguishable because it won't do the student any good in the long run. If a student wants a higher GPA, they shouldn't rely on a +/- system, they need to work harder to bump up their letter grade. WKU needs to learn to follow the beat of their own drummer, and not follow what every other university is doing.

1 The University of Wisconsin does not have plus-minus grading but does recognize intermediate divisions to indicate performance between A & B or B & C. Valid grades are A (4.0), AB (3.5), B (3.0), BC (2.5), C (2.0), D (1.0) and F (0.0) This is not a common system, but it is fairly intuitive and matches up well with other university's grading systems. Maybe it could work at WKU.

1 There is no benefit to the plus/minus system. The only way a student's GPA could rise would be to earn an A in every class. Even one A- would cause them to lose the 4.0 GPA. All it will do is lower grades. The five grade system we have in place now works great- why mess with something that BENEFITS the students?!

1 This debate must arrive at a point where all parties understand that a plus-minus grading system is not being suggested as a way to hurt students. Students should recognize that a large number of the WKU faculty graduated from programs with plus-minus grading systems. The university's attempt at a trial run should be recognized as an invalid test as it did not include any incentive for a student to care whether or not a plus or minus was attached to his/her earned grade. Even without such incentive, the results came out to show no significant effect. Moreover, the lack of any significant effect on overall student GPA should not be a surprise; after all, it is not possible to look at the overall student GPA of a college or university and be able to predict whether or not that institution has a plus-minus grading system.

1 This grading system hurts most of the students involved, and it is not fair to subject them to it!

1 This is a horrible idea. This means that GPA's are no longer comparable across students. I guess this is what we want in our society - no one ever does anything bad, everything is relative. Stop trying to ram the +/- down our throats. A few overly vocal, misinformed faculty do not represent the opinions of the majority.

1 This is a past maybe redundant question. but I would like to see a bulleted list of advantages to the students as well as universities now utilizing this grading system.

Thanks.

1 this is an ok system just as long as i dont have to have the plus/minus grading system...at least it gives the current students an option rather than just pushing it on us

1 This issue is not a significant issue in my mind. If a profession wants to assign plus/minus grades, that's fine with me. I will continue with a non-plus/minus grading scheme until I can justify a finer tuned system.

1 This proposal sounds like a reasonable compromise to me. I support it wholeheartedly.

1 This seems like a continuation from high school and I do not see the benefit for anyone. I think it would help mediocre students, but provide a disadvantage to "A" students who would now be forced to worry about receiving an A- and lowering their GPA, possible resulting in the loss of their scholarship money. This needs to be reconsidered.

1 This seems ridiculous to me. I do not believe the University would do any better with the + or - system. The only thing that W.K.U. would get is more paper work and a headache changing the system. It is hard enough to keep my GPA up without adding more rules. I currently have a 3.51 GPA and I am a senior. There is more things to worry about then + or - system. To me an A is good enough. Whether I am in the lower A or upper A is just splitting hairs. Keep our grading system simple!

1 This simply needs to happen. This will require students to work harder for their grades, and give teachers more options in how they evaluate students. I think this will help stimulate the academic climate of the university, which, with all the physical additions to the campus, is a logical step.

1 This system gives advantages to those students who obtain lower grades. It offers no incentives for student's who receive wonderful grades. Instead it makes the grades that are below an A seem closer to excellence, when in all reality they are far from it.

1 this will effect my gpa and possibly my scholarship program i'm on. i do not like the idea of a grading system like this, i find it irrational and arrogant that they have even proposed it.

1 This would put WKU students in an unfair position, when competing with graduate school candidates from other universities that do not use the plus minus system. A GPA is a GPA. The only way I would even consider supporting this, would be if it was a national post-secondary standard. It is not. Until then, leave it alone! Why on earth would any student volunteer for this system? "Oh please, may I be graded to a more difficult standard than the rest of the U.S.?" This is not an Ivy League school. I say again, leave it alone! Concentrate on more important things, like bringing the soccer team back, and quit wasting money on ornate campus facades. If the senate is bored, go bowling or something.

1 To date, there stands no sufficient evidence that changing the grading scale will influence the caliber of the curriculum at all. It is the educator's responsibility to challenge the students, and it is the student's responsibility to learn. With that being said, plus minus grading appears to be a petty thing that will waste more time while simultaneously offering little or no real educational value for the students whom we serve.

1 TO ME AN A IS AN A, REGARDLESS OF A PLUS OR MINUS. I DO NOT FEEL THAT MY GPA SHOULD BE PENALIZED FOR AN A-. I ALREADY HAVE ENOUGH INCENTIVES TO GET THE HIGHEST GRADE POSSIBLE.

1 Unless the +/- affects a student's GPA, I do not believe implementing the +/- system is beneficial. An A is an A unless an A+ raises a student's GPA.

1 Unproductive Distinctions: Why Western Kentucky University Should not Introduce a Plus/Minus Grading System As a recent graduate of business program in a school that used a plus/minus grading scale (what I refer to as an “incremental grading scale”) and recent entrant into Western, I had hoped to be able to relegate both the “+” and “-“ their proper place--the ledger book. Thus, I read with dismay the current proposal to introduce this needless refinement into the grading system of my new academic home. My reasons for opposing this system are entirely practical. The following are the most significant ones: 1. Incremental (half-grade grading) penalizes high performing students for minor errors, while having relatively little impact on less advanced students. Explanation: If the grading mechanism Western is planning to implement is anything like the one used at my former school, it will almost certainly reduce the overall GPA of relatively good students when it is implemented. The reason for this is that, an incremental scale (at least the one used at my previous school), an “A” has less value than it does in a non-incremental scale. Only an “A+” actually has a value of 4.0 in an incremental scale. An “A” is only worth 3.9 or 3.8 points. When an incremental scale is used, it effectively lowers the point value of a class in which a student scored between 98% and 95% (a score that is, admittedly less than perfect, but still quite good) from 4.0 to 3.9 or 3.8. Alternately, the incremental scale has limit impact on the GPAs of student with more average performances. To a student with a “C” average this fineness may make little difference, and to any but the highest performing students, it is largely irrelevant. Such a student would be, after all, ineligible for academic honors and most scholarships, regardless if his/her GPA is either 2.4 or 2.35. However, to the dedicated and high-performing student, such fine academic distinctions can make the difference between highest honors, high honors, or honors, and, by extension, that student’s ability to gain admission to a professional or graduate program. 2. Incremental grading adds precision, but not accuracy, to the grading scale. Explanation: As humans, students and teachers are subject to unavoidable variations in performance and behavior. Thus, they will inevitably perform better at some times than at others, and they will almost invariably perform slightly worse when overworked or under stress. In both the production of completed academic assignments and in the _evaluation_ of these completed assignments certain errors will inevitably occur. This effectively limits the fineness of the grain of any academic measurement. Of course, high-stakes academic assessments (such as the ACT, SAT, GRE, and GMAT) all provide specific numerical scores. Why then, should college transcripts not offer a similar degree of precision? The questions on these examinations undergo a rigorous process of review and pre-testing before being included in these examinations. This rigorous process of calibration may involve presenting potential test questions more than 1,000 times before they are actually incorporated into a live examination. Of course, educators can produce meaningful assessments of student performance, but it is unrealistic to expect an educator (whose primary job is to teach) to be able to develop testing mechanisms with the same precision as those developed by professional psychometricians. Furthermore, the grading mechanisms of individual teachers do not benefit from extensive statistical weighting, and it is a long-acknowledged fact that individual classes will vary in difficulty depending upon the teacher, despite the fact that they might share the same course name and number. To

increase the precision of a grading scale, without improving the accuracy of the grading system itself, is to risk being misleading by overstating the grading scales accuracy and by understating the potential for human error. At its best, non-incremental grading is an acknowledgment of the imperfect nature of academic assessment and a concession to the inevitability of human error. 3. Incremental grading scales are associated with middle and high school, and incorporating them into college transcripts may effectively lower the value of a degree in the eyes of an employer. Explanation: One potential drawback to the introduction of an incremental grading scale is that it risks making college transcripts appear similar middle and high school transcripts, which often include incremental grades. This may not be a major concern for students pursuing advanced degrees, but it may prove a real problem for students whose education will terminate when at the undergraduate level. An unfortunately large number of employers believe that college is fast becoming the “new high school.” These employers are under the (false) impression that, due to computers and other technological advances and our cultures perceived shift towards greater sensitivity, high education has gone “soft.” If these employers see college transcripts that more closely resemble high school grading transcripts, they may be more likely to (and not necessarily consciously) consider the awarding institution to be little more than a “glorified high school.” 4. The implementation of an incremental grading scale may increase the amount of time the school has to spend resolving contested grades. Explanation: Due to the fineness of the incremental grading scale, small variations in the manner in which assignments are graded are more likely to be reflected on student transcripts. This gives students a greater incentive to contest a larger number of grades. If students do this, administrators and educators will be compelled to spend more time resolving grade disputes. This process will not only be time consuming, but may also encourage the development of acrimony between students and teachers. In this age of sound bites and one-minute managers, an incremental grading scale seems a quaint notion, as it suggests the introduction of information onto college transcripts that both potential employers and graduate schools may not be likely to take the time to read and properly consider. Unfortunately, it also suggests that Western may be succumbing to a “culture of nitpickiness” that stands to benefit no one. As a student of Western, I urge this committee to abandon plans to implement an incremental grading scale. Our culture is already contentious enough, and I fail to see how the “innovation” of incremental grading can do anything but further encourage ill feelings between students and teachers.

1 We need to implement the A/A-/B+/B/B-/C+/C/C-/D/F grading system. The current system is set up so that people who work hard are getting the same grade as ones not even trying to do well.

1 We need to make the switch to a plus minus system for a number of reasons including being more in line with grading at other universities, for accuracy and fairness to students. A student who works hard and earns %89 is far different than a student who slacks off and manages %80 yet at present they both receive Bs. I think a rolling system is a fair and equitable way to phase in a plus/minus system.

1 We should have +- system

1 we should keep the five point grading system as is.

1 Well, if you use the above system it will not affect me, but I will voice my opinions on behalf of future classes. Please, please do not implement this grading scale. It will serve as nothing but a stumbling block for those of us who value our education and

wish to go on to graduate schools. We will have much less chance of being accepted into prestigious programs because students not under the plus/minus system will have higher GPAs than us even though they may have the same letter grades as us. It is simply not a good idea, and it is not fair to students who want to take our education to the next level. I can honestly say that if you implemented this system I would probably not continue to attend this school, and I would imagine that a great deal of the other intelligent hardworking students that keep this school going would move as well. I love my school. I don't want to move, but it is not fair to us to have an unnessesary disadvantage in our future education!

1 What a bankrupt idea. Who is this supposed to help? Where is the A+ ? What other University or institution will accept this unique non-solution to a non-problem. Hang the Senate en masse.

1 what is the purpose?

1 Where is the A+ and D+ grades? Personally, I think WKU should leave the grading system the way it is.

1 While I understand that it will greatly help the students that are that small step between a B and an A by giving them credit for a B+, I also feel that this might affect WKU GPAs more seriously than some expect. I am glad that it is being introduced on a "rolling" basis.

1 Why not go all the way and ask faculty to enter scores between 0 and 100 instead of letter grades. Who are we kidding by creating plus and minus categories; it all comes down to grade point calculation so lets stop using short cut methods and trust the math. This is kind of silly; a bunch of Ph.D's getting all bent over plus/minus for most but not all of the letter grades. It is what I would expect in high school, but not at a university.

1 With so many students against signed grading, I think it is preposterous that the faculty would try to bring this back. You really need to stop beating this dead horse already. I'm a student who personally is for signed grading, but you're doing nothing but damaging your own reputation and relationship with the student body. Surely there are more important issues where we can find common ground, including salaries, benefits, equitable funding and of course enhancing academic quality in other ways. These are the issues University Senate should be tackling, not something that is several years old and several years over. Stop wasting your time and ours.

1 with the grater likelihood that plus/minus grading would lower students gpa based on the minus being factored in, i would not recommend for any incoming classes