

University of Mississippi

eGrove

---

Resolutions

Faculty Senate

---

4-14-2009

## Plus/Minus Grading Resolution

University of Mississippi. Faculty Senate

Follow this and additional works at: [https://egrove.olemiss.edu/facsen\\_resolutions](https://egrove.olemiss.edu/facsen_resolutions)

---

### Recommended Citation

University of Mississippi. Faculty Senate, "Plus/Minus Grading Resolution" (2009). *Resolutions*. 67.  
[https://egrove.olemiss.edu/facsen\\_resolutions/67](https://egrove.olemiss.edu/facsen_resolutions/67)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Senate at eGrove. It has been accepted for inclusion in Resolutions by an authorized administrator of eGrove. For more information, please contact [egrove@olemiss.edu](mailto:egrove@olemiss.edu).

## Plus/Minus Grading Resolution

**Whereas** the University of Mississippi is committed to being a great American public university, and desires to foster the highest levels of academic achievement; and

**Whereas** the faculty of University of Mississippi widely feel that the current letter-only grading scale (A, B, C, D, F):

(1) Inadequately and unfairly assesses the level of student academic performance, due to the large range of scores per grade, and because there is no way to distinguish those of a given grade who appreciably outperform those who receive the same grade, and perhaps just miss the next higher grade, and

(2) Discourages the highest levels of achievement by impairing the ability of students to improve their grades, and only provides an incentive to achieve the bare minimum score necessary to advance to any given higher grade; and

**Whereas** the current letter-only grading scale hampers academic freedom by constraining instructors to use a scale they widely consider to be clumsy, unfair and imprecise; and

**Whereas**, on account of their authority, qualifications and experience, it is the prerogative of the instructors to determine a scale most appropriate for the assessment of student performance; and

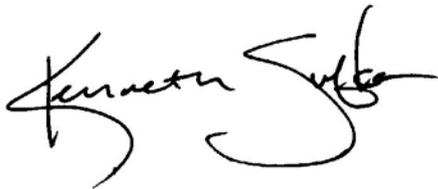
**Whereas** a shift to the adoption of a plus/minus grading scale would entail but minor and temporary inconveniences far outweighed by the long term, or rather permanent benefits;

### **Therefore be it resolved:**

That the Faculty Senate recommends that the University of Mississippi adopt a grading system that enables the option of assigning a + (plus) or a – (minus) letter, and that in keeping with the notion of academic freedom, faculty (and colleges or schools) are free to use the system in a manner that best suits their needs.

**RESOLVED**, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April 2009.

THE SENATE OF THE FACULTY



---

Kenneth J. Sufka  
Chair of Faculty Senate