

First Reading: February 12, 2013

Second Reading: February 19, 2013

Pass:

Other:

Resolution 3-13-S Resolution to Support the Adoption of a Plus-Minus Grading System

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to officially support the adoption of a plus-minus grading system.

WHEREAS: The current grading system at Western Kentucky University does not allow for a very accurate allocation of grades, and

WHEREAS: This plus-minus grading system would be a more precise measurement of every student's effort by adding a plus and a minus into the current grading system, making the A, B, C, D, and F grading system into an A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, F, and

WHEREAS: The plus-minus grading system, as according to Seton Hall University, "is the standard in American academia. . .Translating between different systems often causes confusion and could put our students at a disadvantage in their applications to graduate and professional schools," and

WHEREAS: A plus-minus grading system will bring Western Kentucky University more in line with peer institutions, making our grades look more competitive regionally and nationally, and

WHEREAS: According to East Carolina University, "the change should not have dramatic effects on overall student GPAs. Numerous schools have conducted research into the effects of switching from a grading system without pluses and minuses to a system that incorporates these graduations," finding no major change in overall grades, and

WHEREAS: The plus-minus grading system will encourage students to work equally diligently on their courses throughout the duration of the semester. If a student has an 85 percentile towards the middle of the semester, they are more likely to work harder to achieve a B+ than just settling with a B.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University officially support the adoption of a plus-minus grading system, and

THEREFORE: Be it further resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University does not support the adoption of a value-added system, and

THEREFORE: Be it further resolved that the Student Government Association calls for further discussion with Provost Emslie and the faculty of Western Kentucky University on further details of a plus-minus system, as well as the various possibilities on implementing it in the future.

AUTHOR: Hannah Garland

SPONSOR: Academic Affairs Committee

CONTACTS: Cole McDowell
Trey Crumbie
Megan Skaggs
Dr. Craig T. Cobane
Cory Dodds