

Academic Affairs Committee: Charge 2

Charge 2: Examine possible changes to the grading policy, including further refinements of the A and D grades.

- **Recommendation 1:** No change to the grading system in Policy D5.0 (Grades) is necessary at this time.
- **Recommendation 2:** Provide resources to analyze the results of the faculty survey in greater detail.
- **Recommendation 3:** Charge the 2016/17AY AAC to develop a best-practices white paper to encourage consistent grading.
- **Motion 1:** Modify Policy D5.0 II A by deleting the Description column.

Academic Affairs Committee: Charge 2

Charge 2: Examine possible changes to the grading policy, including further refinements of the A and D grades.

Clipboard survey to gauge the practices, needs, and concerns of instructors with respect to the current grading system.

Sent to RIT_faculty@rit.edu and RIT_adjunct@rit.edu (1109 recipients).

462 respondents:

- Tenure-track faculty: 276 (59.74%)
- Lecturers: 114 (24.68%)
- Adjuncts: 64 (13.85%)
- Did not answer: 8 (1.73%)

Academic Affairs Committee: Charge 2

Recommendation 1: No change to the grading system in Policy D5.0 (Grades) is necessary at this time.

Quantitative Results:

Which additional +/- letter grades would you use if they were available?

- **A+** (4.33): 34%
- **A+** (4.00): <1%
- **D+** (1.33): 24%
- **D—** (0.67): 19%

No majority support for **A+**, **D+**, or **D—** grades.

Qualitative Results:

- A non-trivial number of text responses that did not want changes to be made to the current grading system.

Recommendation 2: Provide resources to analyze the results of the faculty survey in greater detail.

Qualitative Results:

- There are *many* responses to text questions.
- Will require further analysis and interpretation.
- Would like to hire a student to assist with qualitative analysis / coding.

Academic Affairs Committee: Charge 2

Recommendation 3: Charge the 2016/17AY AAC to develop a best-practices white paper to encourage consistent grading.

Qualitative Results:

- Many text responses express concern about the (lack of) consistent use of $+$ / $-$ letter grades across the institution.

Policy D0.5 Grades is not the place for qualitative guidelines.

Document should define “consistent grading”, identify the issues with consistency and impact of inconsistency, and emphasize that final grades are the decision of the instructor.

Document should be developed in consultation with the Provost's Office.

Academic Affairs Committee: Charge 2

Motion 1: Modify Policy D5.0 II A by deleting the Description column.

Grade	Description	Quality Points
A	Excellent	4.00
A—		3.67
B+		3.33
B	Above Average	3.00
B—		2.67
C+		2.33
C	Satisfactory	2.00
C—		1.67
D	Minimum Passing Grade	1.00
F	Failure	0.00

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Grade	Quality Points
A	4.00
A—	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.00
B—	2.67
C+	2.33
C	2.00
C—	1.67
D	1.00
F	0.00

The Description column is problematic:

- Incomplete and insufficiently prescriptive
- Not appropriate for graduate students
- Generates variance, inequity, unfairness
- Policy does not require prose definitions