

SENATE RESOLUTION #1543

Title: Opposition to Faculty Senate Bill 183 and request to the Administration for the disapproval of Faculty Senate Bill 183.

Introduced: October 8, 1986

Thesis: The +/- grade scale proposed by Faculty Senate Bill 183 is inferior and should not replace the current grade scale.

Sponsor: Thomas Tighe

1. Whereas Faculty Senate Bill 183 as enacted would require the implementation
2. of a twelve step +/- grade scale; and whereas ASUW Senate Resolution #1521
3. resolved unanimous opposition to Faculty Senate Bill 183; and whereas
4. sufficient doubt exists that a +/- scale would allow more precision of
5. grading; and whereas the +/- scale reduces the practical differentials of
6. grading so as to jeopardize fairness; and whereas a substantial proportion
7. of the University of Wyoming faculty oppose or do not support the +/-
8. scale; and whereas the +/- scale has been recommended to the University
9. Administration without addressing the need to modify honors and probation
10. requirements; and whereas the fairness of grading would be compromised by
11. voluntary faculty use allowing students taking identical course work to be
12. graded by two different grade scales; and whereas informed students do not
13. generally support a change in the grade scale; and whereas the +/- scale is
14. punitive towards superior students by allowing a grade of "A-" but not
15. "A+"; and whereas the current grade scale is proven efficient in determining
16. student work performance; and whereas the proposed +/- scale is substantially
17. flawed in the precise and fair evaluation of student academic progress;
18. and whereas the flaws contained in and associated with Faculty Senate
19. Bill 183 have not been properly addressed; and whereas alternate grade
20. scales may provide superior student evaluation in relation to Faculty

21. Senate Bill 183 and deserve consideration; and whereas the Student Senate
22. has exhausted efforts to work for a revised +/- system in conjunction
23. with the faculty through the Scholarship Standards Committee and via an
24. ad-hoc committee consisting of faculty and student representatives; and
25. whereas Faculty Bill 183 was passed by the Faculty Senate without a
26. quorum, and is therefore invalid; therefore be it resolved by the
27. Student Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming,
28. representing the interests and welfare of the Associated Students of the
29. University of Wyoming, and with regard to the academic welfare of the
30. University of Wyoming as a whole, that we oppose the implementation of
31. Faculty Senate Bill 183 and urgently recommend the Administration
32. disapprove the enactment of Faculty Senate Bill 183 based on the
33. disadvantages cited in this resolution and therefore that copies of this
34. resolution shall be forwarded to Tom Mattheus, Dean of Students, Robert
35. Houston, Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs, James Hurst,
36. Associate Vice President, Student Affairs, for their respective consider-
37. ations and actions, and President Donald Veal for his consideration of
38. approval or disapproval of Faculty Bill 183.

Referred to: Academic Affairs

Date of UNANIMOUSLY
Passage: November 11, 1986

Signed: James W. DeLozier
ASUW Senate Chairperson

"Being enacted on 11/13/86, I do hereby sign my name hereto and
approve this Senate action." Richard R. Jamieson
ASUW President

Appendix to Senate Resolution #1543

The grade scale enacted by Faculty Senate Bill 183 is as follows:

A = 4.0	C = 2.0
A- = 3.7	C- = 1.7
B+ = 3.3	D+ = 1.3
B = 3.0	D = 1.0
B- = 2.7	D- = 0.7
C+ = 2.3	F = 0.0

This appendix to include a copy of Faculty Senate Bill 183.

A BILL TO CHANGE THE GRADING SCALE
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

1 WHEREAS, the present five-grade scale of A,B,C,D,F, though sanctioned
2 by tradition, is imprecise and hardly adequate in gauging student progress,
3 and

4 WHEREAS, the large qualitative differences existing, for example,
5 between work meriting a low C and a high C, or that meriting a low B and a
6 high B, as well as other existing divergences in quality within the other
7 grades, are presently uneasily accommodated under a five-grade scale, and

8 WHEREAS, this five-grade scale at times has the effect of not properly
9 rewarding students for academic work performed, and is therefore unfair to
10 them, and

11 WHEREAS, a .3 deviation for pluses and minuses best answers our educa-
12 tional needs and adds new, fair, and practical differentials to the grading,
13 and

14 WHEREAS, such an enlarged and diversified scale would permit a fairer
15 and more exact evaluation of student performance than the present five-grade
16 scale, therefore, be it

17 ENACTED by the Faculty Senate of the University of Wyoming that the
18 following grade scale and the grade points accompanying it replace the
19 present five-grade scale of A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0:

20	A	-	4.0	C	-	2.0
21	A-	-	3.7	C-	-	1.7
22	B+	-	3.3	D+	-	1.3
23	B	-	3.0	D	-	1.0
24	B-	-	2.7	D-	-	0.7
25	C+	-	2.3	F	-	0.0

Authentication: The foregoing bill was duly adopted by the Faculty Senate of the University of Wyoming under date of May 13, 1965, and is hereby transmitted to the President of the University of Wyoming for review in accordance with Regulations of the Trustees.

Mary Jane Cowles
Mary Jane Cowles
Secretary
Faculty Senate



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
P.O. BOX 3625, UNIVERSITY STATION
LARAMIE, WYOMING 82071

November 13, 1986

TO: Don Veal, UW President

FROM: Rich Jamieson, ASUW President

RE: Faculty Senate Bill 183 on +/- grading

Enclosed is ASUW Senate Resolution #1543. At 8:00 a.m. on Friday, November 14, ASUW Senator Tom Tighe and I have a meeting with you to discuss the +/- grading issue. We look forward to discussing the details of this with you at this time. If you have any questions or need any further information, please contact Tom, Ruth or me at 766-5204.

encl: SR #1543
Faculty Senate 183