

Final Draft



Faculty Senate

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TO: University of Wyoming Board of Trustees

FROM: Warrie J. Means, University of Wyoming Faculty Senate Chair

RE: Plus/Minus Grading

DATE: March 22, 2012

UW Regulation 6-700 - Bylaws of the University Faculty, Article I. University Faculty, Section 4 - Functions of the University Faculty state “In accordance with, and subject to, the Regulations of the Trustees and applicable provisions of law, the University Faculty is responsible for the establishment of educational and academic policies for the University as a whole and the promotion of the general welfare of the University, its students and the faculty. The faculty believes that the university grading system is part of the *educational and academic policies*. As such, the majority of faculty, as represented by the Faculty Senate, favors transition to a plus/minus grading system.

There is a long history of plus/minus grading activity by the Faculty Senate (*see Historical Timeline of plus-minus grading activities*). I know that some have expressed the view that this issue is not important in terms of moving the institution forward, to a higher level. However, the activities of and votes recorded by the UW Faculty Senate would indicate that the faculty, as a whole, disagree. I submit that the faculty feels that plus/minus grading is important to the institution. The faculty is charged with development, implementation, and delivery of the curriculum. Grading and grading methods are an integral part of this charge. The UW faculty has worked on this issue since October 2008 and we strongly believe that this would be in the best interest of the students and the institution.

I urge the UW Board of Trustees to consider passage of Faculty Senate Bill 320, “A Bill to Revise UW Regulations Supporting a Plus/Minus Grading System” (UW Regulation 6-722: Grading system – including mid-semester and end-of-semester grades)^a.

Thank you in advance for your serious consideration.

^a <http://www.uwyo.edu/facultysenate/files/docs/2011-12/sb%20320%20plus-minus%20grading%20system%20to%20president.pdf>