Faculty Senate Bill No. 388

Policy on Plus/Minus Grading

**Whereas**, The Student Government Association (SGA) of the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) passed a resolution, SB 15.09-28, on 10/07/2015, requesting a change to UAH’s plus/minus grading policy.

**Whereas**, SGA’s SB 15.09-28 stipulates that UAH’s current plus/minus grading policy is inconsistently applied across instructors, lecturers, and professors (hereafter, “instructors”) teaching classes that yield grades from “A” to “F,” and

**Whereas**, there is no difference in a standard grade and a plus/minus grade of the same letter in terms of GPA calculation at UAH, and

**Whereas**, professional schools and programs convert plus/minus grades to a standard GPA equivalent if not done so by the institution of origin, thus modifying the applicant’s GPA for the purposes of the application.

**Whereas**, the SGA believes that this inconsistency may reduce the chances of gaining admission to a professional school due to this policy if a minus grade is reduced in value by their calculations, and

**Whereas**, SB 15-09-28 from the SGA formally requests that “The University of Alabama in Huntsville requires instructors to either augment the course grades of A, B, C, and D with symbols “+” and “-“ signifying, respectively, high and low achievement within the assigned grade for each course in a standard way across all colleges and courses, or The University of Alabama in Huntsville requires instructors to only use the grades of A, B, C, and D, without the symbols “+” and “-“ signifying, respectively, high and low achievement within the assigned grade for each course.”

**Whereas**, SB 15.09-28 was considered and discussed by the Undergraduate Scholastic Affairs Subcommittee of the Faculty Senate at the direction of the Faculty Senate President, and

**Whereas**, the recommendations of this Subcommittee were discussed in the Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting,

**Be it therefore resolved** that The Provost shall develop a policy on plus/minus grading that will apply to all instructors, in any status of employment, offering a course that yields the grades A, B, C, and D,

**Be it further resolved** that this policy will reflect the optional use of plus minus grading for instructors in their courses for which they are instructors of record, and that the decision to apply or not apply plus minus grading in each specific course rests with the individual instructor, and

**Be it further resolved** that a statement in the instructor’s syllabus for each course offered will reflect the instructor’s decision to use or not use plus/minus grading in that specific course, and

**Be it further resolved** that this policy will reflect a change in GPA calculation based on plus/minus grading so that a plus (“+”) grade yields a higher proportion of quality points than a standard grade of the same letter, and a minus (“-“) grade yields a lower proportion of quality points than a standard grade of the same letter, and

**Be it further resolved** that the difference in quality points between a plus/minus grade and standard grade of the same letter will be determined by the Provost based on commonly used academic convention and clearly stated in this policy.

**Be it further resolved** that this change will be effective the semester following the adoption of this policy, and plus/minus grades earned prior to the effective date of implementation for this policy will not be subject to a change in quality point calculation and are effectively “grandfathered in” as being in effect prior to the advent of the new policy, as is consistent with UAH practice regarding other changes in curriculum and academic policy. Plus/minus grades earned during or after the effective date of this policy will be subject to the change in quality point calculation.