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Fall 2014

### F14RS No. 39 (Plus-Minus Grading)

Adam Grashoff

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## STUDENT SENATE

F14RS

SGR No. 39

BY: SENATOR GRASHOFF

## A RESOLUTION

TO REAFFIRM LSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT'S POSITION OF OPPOSITION TOWARD THE PROPOSED SUFFIX GRADING SYSTEM AND TO URGE AND REQUEST PRESIDENT AND CHANCELLOR DR. F. KING ALEXANDER TO NOT APPROVE THE FACULTY SENATE'S PROPOSED PLUS/MINUS GRADING GUIDELINES.

**PARAGRAPH 1:** WHEREAS, LSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT PASSED STUDENT GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION TWENTY-SEVEN (27) IN THE FALL 2011 REGULAR SESSION, STUDENT GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION NINE (9) IN THE FALL 2012 REGULAR SESSION, AND STUDENT GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION EIGHT (8) IN THE FALL 2013 REGULAR SESSION, ALL THREE OF WHICH OPPOSED THE CREATION OF A PLUS/MINUS OR SUFFIX GRADING SYSTEM FOR LSU; AND

**PARAGRAPH 2:** WHEREAS, UPDATED RESEARCH ON THIS TOPIC HAS CONTINUED TO COME FORTH SINCE FALL 2012; AND

**PARAGRAPH 3:** WHEREAS, CURRENTLY LSU USES THE FOLLOWING QUALITY POINT SCALE:

- A 4.0 QP
- B 3.0 QP
- C 2.0 QP
- D 1.0 QP
- F 0.0 QP; AND

**PARAGRAPH 4:** WHEREAS, WITH THE NEW PLUS/MINUS SYSTEM THE QUALITY POINT SCALE WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

- A+ 4.3 QP
- A 4.0 QP
- A- 3.7 QP
- B+ 3.3 QP
- B 3.0 QP
- B- 2.7 QP
- C+ 2.3 QP
- C 2.0 QP
- C- 1.7 QP
- D+ 1.3 QP
- D 1.0 QP
- D- 0.7 QP
- F 0.0 QP; AND

**PARAGRAPH 5:** WHEREAS, THE STUDENT BODY HAS EXPRESSED A STRONG OPPOSITION TO THIS CHANGE TO PLUS/MINUS GRADING; AND

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54 **PARAGRAPH 6:** WHEREAS, BETWEEN JANUARY 2012 AND OCTOBER 2013,  
55 STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTLY RECEIVED OVER 200 EMAILS  
56 FROM STUDENTS ON THIS TOPIC, OF WHICH ONLY ABOUT TWO  
57 PERCENT (2%) WERE IN SUPPORT OF THE CHANGE TO  
58 PLUS/MINUS GRADING; AND  
59  
60 **PARAGRAPH 7:** WHEREAS, THE LSU FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE  
61 IMPLEMENTATION OF PLUS/MINUS “SUFFIX” GRADING  
62 CONDUCTED A SURVEY IN SPRING 2013 TO GATHER DATA ON  
63 POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF SUFFIX GRADING ON STUDENTS’ GPA;  
64 AND  
65  
66 **PARAGRAPH 8:** WHEREAS, THE SURVEY PRODUCED THE FOLLOWING RESULTS:  
67 “IN THE FACULTY SURVEY, 2,056 GRADES REPORTEDLY CHANGED  
68 WITH ADDITION OF A SUFFIX (676 INCREASED, 1,380 DROPPED)”  
69 AND “OF THE 2,770 GRADE ESTIMATES PROVIDED IN THE  
70 STUDENT SURVEY, 228 WERE EXPECTED TO INCREASE WITH  
71 ADDITION OF A SUFFIX AND 1,253 WERE EXPECTED TO  
72 DECREASE;” AND  
73  
74 **PARAGRAPH 9:** WHEREAS, 224 STUDENTS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THIS SURVEY  
75 PROVIDED THEIR PERSONAL COMMENTS ON SUFFIX GRADING, OF  
76 WHICH 82.6% WERE AGAINST IMPLEMENTATION OF SUFFIX  
77 GRADING, 9.4% SUPPORTED THE CHANGE AND 8.0% WERE  
78 INDIFFERENT; AND  
79  
80 **PARAGRAPH 10:** WHEREAS, THE RESULTS OF THIS SURVEY SHOW THAT THERE  
81 WOULD BE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON STUDENT GPA IF SUFFIX  
82 GRADING WERE IMPLEMENTED; AND  
83  
84 **PARAGRAPH 11:** WHEREAS, CURRENTLY MANY LSU STUDENTS OFFSET THE COST  
85 OF TUITION AND FEES WITH TOPS AND OTHER ACADEMIC-BASED  
86 SCHOLARSHIPS; AND  
87  
88 **PARAGRAPH 12:** WHEREAS, TOPS CURRENTLY REQUIRES A MINIMUM 2.3  
89 CUMULATIVE GPA AT THE END OF THE FIRST ACADEMIC YEAR  
90 (BETWEEN 24-47 HOURS OF EARNED CREDIT) AND A MINIMUM 2.5  
91 CUMULATIVE GPA AT THE END OF ALL OTHER ACADEMIC YEARS  
92 (ONCE 48 HOURS HAS BEEN EARNED); AND  
93  
94 **PARAGRAPH 13:** WHEREAS, LOSING TOPS AND OTHER ACADEMIC-BASED  
95 SCHOLARSHIPS COULD POTENTIALLY HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT  
96 ON MANY LSU STUDENTS, FORCING THEM TO UNDERGO  
97 UNNECESSARY HARDSHIPS AND POSSIBLY EVEN RESIGNING FROM  
98 THE UNIVERSITY; AND  
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100 **PARAGRAPH 14:** WHEREAS, THE PLUS/MINUS SUFFIX GRADING SCALE COULD  
101 POTENTIALLY DETER PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS FROM ATTENDING  
102 THE UNIVERSITY AND DECREASE ENROLLMENT; AND  
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104 **PARAGRAPH 15:** WHEREAS, THE LOWERING OF MANY STUDENTS’ GPA WILL  
105 DECREASE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF LSU GRADUATES SEEKING  
106 ADMISSION TO PROFESSIONAL AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS; AND

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**PARAGRAPH 16:** WHEREAS, MANY INSTRUCTORS CURRENTLY USE A SUBJECTIVE GRADING SCALE FOR THEIR COURSES; AND

**PARAGRAPH 17:** WHEREAS, IF THIS NEW GRADING SYSTEM WERE OPTIONAL IT WOULD CAUSE CONFUSION FOR BOTH STUDENTS AND FACULTY ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY; AND

**PARAGRAPH 18:** WHEREAS, THIS CONFUSION WOULD STEM FROM THE LACK OF UNIFORMITY IN REGARD TO THE QUALITY POINT DISTRIBUTION AMONG INSTRUCTORS, PARTICULARLY THOSE INSTRUCTORS TEACHING EQUIVALENT COURSES; AND

**PARAGRAPH 19:** WHEREAS, CONFUSION WOULD ALSO ARISE WHEN COMPARING LSU TRANSCRIPTS WITH EACH OTHER DUE TO THIS LACK OF UNIFORMITY; AND

**PARAGRAPH 20:** WHEREAS, THE OPINION OF THE LSU STUDENT BODY IN REGARD TO THIS CHANGE IN THE GRADING SYSTEM MUST BE CONSIDERED DUE TO THIS HAVING A PROFOUND EFFECT ON THE ACADEMIC LIFE OF MORE THAN THIRTY THOUSAND (30,000) STUDENTS AND THEIR FUTURE; AND

**PARAGRAPH 21:** WHEREAS, STUDENTS SHOULD ALWAYS BE REPRESENTED IN DISCUSSIONS THAT WOULD HAVE SUCH A LARGE EFFECT ON THEIR LIVES.

**PARAGRAPH 22:** THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE IS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO IMPLEMENTING A PLUS/MINUS SUFFIX GRADING SYSTEM AND URGES PRESIDENT AND CHANCELLOR DR. F. KING ALEXANDER TO NOT APPROVE THE FACULTY SENATE'S PROPOSED PLUS/MINUS GRADING GUIDELINES, AND

**PARAGRAPH 23:** BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE TRANSMITTED TO DR. F. KING ALEXANDER, PRESIDENT AND CHANCELLOR, DR. STUART BELL, EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR AND PROVOST, AND DR. K.C. WHITE, DEAN OF STUDENTS.

**PARAGRAPH 24:** THIS RESOLUTION SHALL TAKE EFFECT UPON PASSAGE BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY (ONE-HALF PLUS ONE) VOTE OF THE LSU STUDENT SENATE AND SIGNATURE BY THE PRESIDENT, UPON LAPSE OF TIME FOR PRESIDENTIAL ACTION, OR IF VETOED BY THE PRESIDENT AND SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED BY THE SENATE, ON THE DATE OF SUCH APPROVAL.

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**APPROVED:**

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**TYLER S. LOGA**  
**SPEAKER OF THE SENATE**

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CLAYTON TUFTS**  
**STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT**

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_