


MEMORANDUM

P.O. Box 600  
State University, AR 72467-0600

May 15, 2012

To: Ms. Angela Daniels, Chair  
Shared Governance Oversight Committee

From: Tim Hudson  
Chancellor 

Re: Proposal to Change the Graduate Course Level Grading System

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Jonesboro, Arkansas

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I received the following proposal from the Shared Governance Oversight Committee (SGOC). Pursuant to the governing language contained in the Faculty Handbook, I have reviewed the proposal carefully, consulted with other parties as appropriate, and hereby document my response:

- Proposal 12SP-03, Proposal to Change the Graduate Course Level Grading System. The SGOC met on April 9, 2012, to decide the disposition of the proposal. The SGOC determined that the proposal should receive an expedited review under the direction of the Graduate Council. Set to review the proposal were the Faculty Senate, Deans Council, Chairs Council, SGA, and GSC. Following review, the constituency groups (Faculty Senate, Deans Council, Chairs Council, SGA, and GSC) supported the proposal.

Response: I support the position of the constituency groups (Faculty Senate, Deans Council, Chairs Council, SGA, and GSC) on the proposal to Change the Graduate Course Level Grading System.

Pursuant to the Shared Governance Proposal Review Process, the campus community will be informed of my decision, which will be done through the ASU Daily Digest. Please accept my heartfelt appreciation for your leadership and extend my appreciation to the SGOC members for their active service to our university.

/mb

xc: Executive Council

## MARILYN C BREWER

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**From:** Angela Daniels  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 10, 2012 1:19 PM  
**To:** Tim Hudson  
**Cc:** MARILYN C BREWER; SHERRY LYNN JOHNSON; Dan Howard  
**Subject:** Shared Governance Proposal 12SP-03 Proposal to Change the Graduate Course Level Grading System  
**Attachments:** 12SP-03 Proposal to change Graduate Level course grading system.pdf; 12SP-03 Disposition.pdf

TO: Dr. Tim Hudson, Chancellor ASU Jonesboro  
FROM: Angela Daniels, Chair SGOC  
DATE: May 10, 2012  
RE: Shared Governance Proposal 12SP-03 Proposal to Change the Graduate Course Level Grading System

The SGOC set the disposition on April 9, 2012 for 12SP-03 Proposal to Change the Graduate Course Level Grading System. It was decided that this was a shared governance issue and it should receive an expedited review under the direction of the Graduate Council. The constituency groups set to review this proposal were the Faculty Senate, Chair's Council, Dean's Council, Student Government Association (SGA), and the Graduate Student Council (GSC). The proposal was sent to the responsible committee and the constituency groups after the disposition meeting.

The Graduate Council supported the proposal. The response from the constituency groups indicated that the Faculty Senate, Chair's Council, Dean's Council, Student Government Association (SGA), and Graduate Student Council (GSC) supported the proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela J. Daniels



### **Angela J. Daniels**

Student Affairs Technology Director  
Shared Governance Oversight Committee Chair

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Shared Governance Oversight Committee

Disposition Form

Proposal: 12SP-03 Proposal to Change the Graduate Course Level Grading System

Disposition Date: April 9, 2012

Responsible Assigned Committee: Graduate Council

Type of Review:

- Expedited
- Full
- Extended

Handbook Issue:  Yes  No

Constituency Groups:

- Faculty Senate
- Staff Senate
- Deans Council
- Chairs Council
- SGA
- GSC
- Vice Chancellor(s)

TO: Shared Governance Oversight Committee  
FROM: Graduate Council  
RE: Revision of the Grading System for Graduate Level courses  
DATE: March 29, 2012

The current grading policy for graduate courses at Arkansas State University includes two levels of a failing grade. Both 'D' and 'F' are failing grades for graduate courses. This causes confusion regarding student understanding of academic standing, grade point average, and progress to degree. Students familiar with the undergraduate policy of a 'D' being a passing grade do not always realize they have failed a graduate course when they receive a 'D' grade. The 'D' grade, while failing, still receives one grade point per credit hour, indicating some level of merit above the 'F' grade while still failing. A grade of 'F' will result in suspension from the Graduate School, while a grade of 'D' does not (unless the student is already on Academic Probation).

A recent email survey to the members of the Council of Graduate Schools revealed that all responding institutions, like ASU, only considered grades of 'C' or better as passing for graduate level courses. However, more than two-thirds of those responding do not even include the 'D' grade within their system, thus eliminating the confusion of having two different levels of course failure. At this time, the Graduate Council proposes that ASU adopt this grading system by eliminating the 'D' grade from graduate level courses. There is no need for two levels of a failing grade.

The current grading system from the Graduate Bulletin is reproduced below, followed by the proposed system. An additional sentence is also added to clarify the existing procedure for non-letter grade courses to not be used for GPA calculations.

#### CURRENT:

#### GRADING SYSTEM

The letters, A, B, C, P, D, F, FN, I, IP, and CR are used in grading, indicating the following qualities:

A	Excellent
B	Good
C	Fair
P	Pass
D & F	Failure
FN	Failure for Non Attendance
I	Incomplete
IP	In Progress (Thesis and Dissertation only)
CR	Credit Awarded for completed thesis/dissertation
NC	No Credit awarded for thesis/dissertation work

For the purpose of computing cumulative and collective grade averages, grade points

are assigned as follows:

A	4
B	3
C	2
P	0
D	1
F	0

Students' grade point averages are computed by multiplying the number of hours credit of each grade by the grade points assigned to that grade and dividing the sum of these several products by the total number of hours in which the students were enrolled.

An incomplete grade not removed within one semester unless extenuating circumstances are provided in writing to the Graduate School, will be recorded as "F."

**No grade below "C" will be accepted for graduate credit.**

PROPOSED:

### GRADING SYSTEM

The letters, A, B, C, P, D, F, FN, I, IP, and CR are used in grading, indicating the following qualities:

A	Excellent
B	Good
C	Fair
P	Pass
D & F	Failure
FN	Failure for Non Attendance
I	Incomplete
IP	In Progress (Thesis and Dissertation only)
CR	Credit Awarded for completed thesis/dissertation
NC	No Credit awarded for thesis/dissertation work

For the purpose of computing cumulative and collective grade averages, grade points are assigned as follows:

A	4
B	3
C	2
P	0
D	1
F, FN	0

Students' grade point averages are computed by multiplying the number of hours credit of each grade by the grade points assigned to that grade and dividing the sum of these several products by the total number of hours in which the students were enrolled. Grades of P, CR, and NC are not assigned grade points, and hours associated with these grades are not used in computing grade point averages.

An incomplete grade not removed within one semester unless extenuating circumstances are provided in writing to the Graduate School, will be recorded as "F."

**No grade below "C" will be accepted for graduate credit.**