Phinney 102 Conference Room
Present: Stephan Flores (Chair), Allan Caplan, Erin Chapman, Helen Joyner, Matt Doumit, Christine Slater, and Carlos Vazquez.

Stephan called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m.

The Minutes of the meeting of November 6 were approved, with abstentions from those who were not able to attend that meeting.

Prior to this meeting, Stephan sent the following four documents related to Plus/Minus grading to TeAC, with the suggestion that members take a look at WKU’s final report on potential revisions to the grading system, and that we would consider the other documents when the committee met again in 2018:

1. Western Kentucky University’s final “Report of the Senate Academic Quality Committee on Potential Revisions to the Grading System” (March 18, 2008)
2. Barnes and Buring, “The Effect of Various Grading Scales on Student Grade Point Averages” (U of Cincinnati College of Pharmacy, 2012)

TeAC reviewed some of the primary findings of WKU’s report, which was an outcome that followed a vote of the WKU university senate in March 2007 to implement plus/minus grading. That vote followed earlier studies of data and a three-semester pilot program “during which plus/minus grades were assigned by faculty but did not appear on student transcripts or affect students’ G.P.A.s.”

The final report of WKU’s Senate Academic Quality Committee was to recommend unanimously changing in two years to a full-range plus/minus grading system that would be implemented “wholesale” without an opt-in or a rolling option for all students.

WKU’s report stated several reasons for advocating the shift to a plus/minus grading system, including citing research that suggests plus/minus grading increases student motivation and academic performance, that it promotes academic quality and fairness in grading, and that in repeated surveys, a majority of faculty were in favor of plus/minus grading.

The WKU committee considered four different plus/minus grading systems, and recommended a full range of grades from A+ to F, with no reduction in G.P.A. for a C-. Scale: A+ (4.3)/A- (3.7)/B+ (3.3)/B (3.0)/B-(2.7)/C+ (2.3)/C (2.0)/C- (2.0)/D+ (1.3)/D (1.0)/D- (.7)/F (0.0).

Stephan suggested that he might contact TeAC members to take the lead on summarizing the various reports from other universities, prior to when the committee meets again in 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Minutes submitted respectfully by Stephan Flores.