

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
2018-19 Meeting #15, February 11, 2019

Present: Diane Prorak, Cher Hendricks, Taylor Raney, Sanjay Sisodiya, Bert Baumgaertner, Tara Hudiburg, Dean Panttaja, Mark Nielsen, David Pimentel, Liz Brandt, Hannah Spear, Robert Heinse, Julie Beeston, Madi Bergeman

Absent: Jesse Smith, Irene Ogidan, Jean-Marc Gauthier

Others present: Grace Miller, Rebecca Frost, Dwaine Hubbard, Stephan Flores, Erin Chapman, Mark Warner

The UCC14 minutes were approved unanimously.

UCC-19-051 Teaching and Advising Committee

Stephan Flores introduced the Plus/Minus grading proposal, due to take effect Fall 2023. He noted the following concerns: plus/minus distinctions have the potential to undermine four-point GPAs and interfere with faculty student relationships. Liz Brandt noted that less than 2% of students graduate with a 4.0, regardless. Flores then noted the following benefits: enhanced integrity in the academic record, higher transferability, and consistency with other Idaho institutions. He noted that the vote in favor included the ASUI vice president, despite overwhelming negative response from the student body.

Chairperson Raney noted that faculty's ability to distinguish between A and B is already questionable; he asked whether everyone had a valid assessment system in place for the more minor distinctions between A, A-, B+, and B (etc). Flores noted that faculty are already empowered to teach, which means they are granted equal authority to assess.

Bert Baumgaertner noted that the proposal was veto'ed in 2005 by the President and asked why. Flores explained that it was voted on at Senate without a quorum and that several students spoke up against. It was also noted that even if the proposal passes, there is nothing to prevent professors from not using Plus/Minus grading in their assessments.

Sanjay Sisodiya noted that there is no D- included. Flores explained that the difference between a D and a D- might be too marginal and Sisodiya asked why marginality at the A and B level was not a similar problem.

Chairperson Raney closed the meeting at 4 to accommodate the winter storm warning. UCC will reconvene on February 25, 2019.

Grace Miller

UCC Secretary