



November 18, 1992

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Chancellor Schwartz

FROM: Frank D. Popp, Chair  
Faculty Senate

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Frank D. Popp', written over the printed name in the 'FROM' field.

At its meeting on November 17, the senate passed the following resolution:

The Faculty Senate Recommends that +/- grading be made available to faculty whose schools request it.

RECEIVED  
NOV 19 1992  
VICE CHANCELLOR  
STUDENT AFFAIRS



Registration and Records  
University of Missouri-Kansas City  
Student Services Building  
4825 Troost Avenue  
Kansas City, Missouri 64110-2030

Registrar  
816 235-1213  
Records Office  
816 235-1121  
Registration Office  
816 235-1125  
Fax 816 235-1717

February 11, 1994

AMCAS  
Section for Student Services  
2450 N Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20037

RE: Transcript Processing

Please note that effective with the Fall 1993 semester (ending 10 December 1993), the University of Missouri-Kansas City adopted a new grading system. The change made permits faculty to assign grades with plus (+) and minus (-) designations.

OLD:	A = 4pts	B = 3	C = 2	D = 1	F = zero		
NEW:	A = 4pts	A- = 3.7	B+ = 3.3	B = 3	B- = 2.7	C+ = 2.3	
	C = 2	C- = 1.7	D+ = 1.3	D = 1	D- = 1.7	F = zero	

At this time, the campus has not approved the use of A+ as a grade. However, for the Fall 1993 semester only, some faculty were given permission to issue A+ grades which carried 4.3 quality points per semester credit hour. Note also that the grade of F does not carry plus or minus designations.

Per your "Registrar Data Letter" on page 2, item 6.c, Graduate Grading Systems, please note that the University of Missouri-Kansas City offers 7 out of the 8 programs which you itemize. We do not offer a program in "Physician Assistant".

If you require any additional clarification or information regarding the UMKC transcript, please feel free to contact this office at (816) 235 -1121.

Sincerely,

Timothy E. Sullivan  
Assistant Registrar

cc: Wilson Berry, Registrar

Office of the Chancellor

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages ▶ 1
To <i>Cindy Olson</i>	From <i>Wanda Larkins</i>	
Co.	Co.	
Dept.	Phone # <i>1165</i>	
Fax # <i>1717</i>	Fax # <i>5191</i>	



MEMORANDUM

August 20, 1993

To: Deans and Academic Directors

From: Marvin R. Query *Marvin*  
Vice Provost/Executive Dean

This will serve as a reminder that beginning Fall Semester, 1993, the plus/minus grading system is in effect. The following quality points are awarded for each grade and credit hour of course work.

Grade	Quality Points
A+	4.3
A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0
D-	0.7
F	0.0

Please pass this reminder along to faculty in your school/program and ask them to share this information with students in each of their classes.

c: Chancellor Eleanor Brantley Schwartz  
Vice Chancellor Gary Widmar

RECEIVED



MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** October 26, 1993

**TO:** Division of Teacher Education and Curriculum and Instruction

**FROM:** Drs. Loncar and Adler

**RE:** Grading System

Office of the Dean  
 816 235-2236

Alumni/Development  
 816 235-2236

Business Office  
 816 235-2251

Center for Higher Order Literacy  
 816 235-2477

Center for the Study of Metropolitan Problems in Education  
 816 235-2448

Continuing Education Services  
 816 235-1188

Counseling Psychology and Counselor Education  
 816 235-2722

Curriculum and Instruction—Early Childhood and Elementary  
 816 235-2241

Curriculum and Instruction—Secondary  
 816 235-2245

Educational Research and Psychology  
 816 235-2726

Instructional Materials Center  
 816 235-2744

Language and Literacy  
 816 235-1545

Physical Education  
 816 235-2714

Special Education  
 816 235-2254

Student Services  
 816 235-2234

Teacher Education—Early Childhood and Elementary  
 816 235-2241

Teacher Education—Secondary  
 816 235-2245

Urban Leadership and Policy Studies  
 816 235-2248  
 816 235-2716

The following is the text of Executive Order #25: Policy on Plus/Minus Grading Systems (nb. there is no A+):

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 25

POLICY ON PLUS/MINUS GRADING SYSTEMS

November, 1993

Any University or academic division electing to adopt a plus/minus grading system must use the system shown below:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Quality Points</u>
A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0
D-	0.7
F	0

Implementation of the uniform grading scale policy will be effective Winter semester 1994.


Fax  
 816 235-5270



MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 3, 1994

TO: Eleanor B. Schwartz  
Chancellor

FROM: Larry H. Dietz   
Associate Vice Chancellor  
for Student Affairs

SUBJECT: Plus/Minus Grades

Chancellor/Provost  
816 235-1101

Vice Provost/Executive Dean  
Academic Affairs  
816 235-1107

Vice Chancellor  
Administrative Affairs  
816 235-2754

Vice Chancellor  
University Advancement  
816 235-1105

Vice Chancellor  
Student Affairs  
816 235-1141

Fax  
816 235-5189

Per our discussion, I have reviewed the Faculty Senate resolution with Wilson Berry, Registrar. Wilson is recommending that the motion passed by the Senate not be adopted for the following reasons:

- 1) The Plus/Minus grades have been established within the Student Information System (SIS) as .3 quality points per credit hour above and below the value of the base grade. Those values have been used for all plus/minus grades awarded since Fall Semester 1993. There were 1,102 plus grades and 2,054 minus grades assigned for Fall Semester 1993. The value of these grades has been formalized by Executive Order #25 for all campuses of the University of Missouri.
- 2) The Registration and Records Office has no way to record the same grade being assigned with two different values. Therefore, if all plus/minus grade values are changed to the same value as the base grade, all the prior plus/minus grades would be recalculated at the new value on any grade change for those students in the prior term.
- 3) An additional system problem is the fact that within SIS, grade restrictions placed on students by their academic unit apply, no matter what unit is issuing the grade. For example, if the College of Arts and Science says that their students cannot receive plus/minus grades, then SIS will not accept a plus/minus grade earned by that student from another academic unit. Consequently, inconsistencies in the awarding of plus/minus grades across academic divisions as recommended by the Faculty Senate will be impossible to record using current technology.

Given sufficient notice, the plan proposed by the Faculty Senate could be programmed into the Student Information System if it was supported by all four of the campuses. However, any such programming would need to be done by the MIS programmers in Columbia. This would be no small undertaking. It is difficult to predict when staff time would be available to begin the project, or how long it would take to complete the programming and test the system before it could be put into production.

I concur with Wilson's recommendation regarding the Faculty Senate resolution. It would be my suggestion that this issue be discussed at a General Officers meeting.

Should you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

c: Marvin Querry, Executive Vice Provost  
L Wilson Berry, Registrar

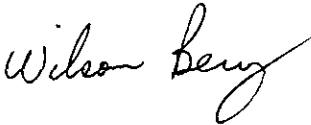


Registration and Records  
University of Missouri-Kansas City  
Student Services Building  
4825 Troost Avenue  
Kansas City, Missouri 64110-2030

Registrar  
816 235-1213  
Records Office  
816 235-1121  
Registration Office  
816 235-1125  
Fax 816 235-1717

April 26, 1994

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Larry Dietz  
FROM: Wilson Berry   
SUBJECT: Plus/Minus Grades

I have reviewed the motion passed by the Senate at its April 19 meeting, and would like to make you aware of the implications.

1. The plus/minus grades have been established within the Student Information System as .3 quality points per credit hours above and below the value of the base grade. Those values have been used for all plus/minus grades awarded since Fall Semester 1993. There were 1102 "Plus" grades and 2054 "Minus" grades assigned for the Fall Semester 1993. The value of these grades has been formalized by executive order number 25, dated November, 1993 for all campuses of the University of Missouri (copy attached).
2. I have no way to record the same grade being assigned with two different values. Therefore, if all plus/minus grade values are changed to the same value as the base grade, all the prior +/- grades would be recalculated at the new value on any grade change for those students in the prior term.
3. The grade authorized by the academic unit resides with the student, and not with the course being taught. For example, in order for an Education faculty member to award a plus/minus grade to a student from a different academic unit, that student's academic unit must not restrict their students from receiving such grades. They would not have to assign plus/minus grades themselves if their policy prohibited such assignment.

Given sufficient advance notice, the plan proposed by the Senate could be programmed into the Student Information System if supported by all four campuses. Any programming must be done by the MIS programmers in Columbia. It would affect numerous programs and would take a considerable amount of programmer analyst effort. Such programming would be placed in a priority along with all other projects to be worked on. I have no way of predicting when staff time would be available to begin, nor how long it would take to complete the programming and test the system before it could be put into production.

I recommend that the motion passed by the Senate at its April 19 meeting be changed to retain the current value of the plus/minus grades.

College of Arts and Sciences  
Department of Chemistry

University of Missouri-Kansas City  
205 Spencer Chemistry Building  
5100 Rockhill Road  
Kansas City, Missouri 64110-2499

816 235-2272

*Copy (5)  
Pope*

*copy sent  
to Andy Janif*



April 19, 1994

MEMORANDUM

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages ▶	1
To	Wilson Berry		
From	VCSA		
Co.	Registrar		
Dept.			
Phone #	1141		
Fax #	1717	Fax #	5189

**TO:** Chancellor Schwartz

**FROM:** Frank D. Popp, Chair  
Faculty Senate

*The Senate at its meeting of April 19 passed the following motion:*

*Moved that the Faculty Senate go on record that each academic division has the right to determine grading policy and that the right to award grades resides with the faculty. For the purposes of GPA calculation, all A's (A+,A,A-)=4.0; all B's (B+,B,B-)=3.0; all C's (C+,C,C-)=2.0, all D's (D+,D,D-)=1.0 and all F's (F+,F,F-)=0.000.*

APR 20 1994  
VICE CHANCELLOR  
STUDENT AFFAIRS





UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI SYSTEM

Office of  
Planning & Budget

104 University Hall  
Columbia, Missouri 65211  
Telephone (314) 882-3400

January 13, 1994

To: Dr. Richard L. Wallace, Academic Affairs Vice President

From: Steve Chatman *sc*

Subject: Plus/Minus Grading

At a recent meeting of the Directors of Admissions and Registrars (DAR), the institutional practice regarding transfer grade point averages was discussed. Specifically, the Directors discussed whether plus/minus grades from transfer students should be recognized now that some campuses recognize plus/minus grades themselves. Before now, the plus/minus extension of grades reported on transcripts of transfer applicants tended to be ignored in determining eligibility to enroll and in computing cumulative grade point average. That would probably not be the case now at a campus that recognizes plus/minus grading. The discussion about different practices at UM campuses quickly expanded to transfers from other UM campuses and questions about computing the grade point average for "good academic standing," eligibility for scholarships, graduation requirements, and, in general, the University of Missouri grade point average.

The following hypothetical examples illustrate some of the potential problems produced by inconsistencies in grading policies and grade recognition practices.

- a Ann Jones attended UM-Kansas City and earned three C-'s. Her GPA was 1.7 and she was placed on academic probation. Kay Jones performed equally well but attended UM-Rolla where pluses and minuses were not used. She earned three C's, her GPA was 2.0, and she was in good academic standing.
- b Bill Jones applied to transfer from Washington University, where he had a GPA of 1.7 (the result of earning three C-'s), to UM-Rolla. UM-Rolla did not recognize plus/minus grading and admitted him with a 2.0 GPA because UM-Rolla ignored the minuses. Bill also applied to UM-Kansas City and was determined to be inadmissible because he had a 1.7 GPA. UM-Kansas City recognized the minuses.
- c Ann Jones transferred from UM-Kansas City where she was on probation for her 1.7 GPA (all C-'s) to UM-Rolla, where she was admitted with a 2.0 GPA. UM-Rolla did not recognize the minuses.
- d John Jones earned three A's and one B at UM-Rolla. His GPA was 3.75 and he continued to receive a full Curator's scholarship. Jim Jones attended UM-St Louis and also earned three A's and one B (two A's, one A-, and one B). His GPA was 3.675 and his award was reduced.

Many similar illustrations are possible for those cases where institutional grading practices differ and those differences affect the treatment of students. From a System perspective, I have identified four concerns that should be addressed. The first two concerns specifically address UM policy. The

second two are not specifically addressed in UM policy but probably bear examination. The issues represent both intercampus and intracampus policies and practices.

To my knowledge, there is only one place in the *Collected Rules and Regulations* where the method of determining a GPA is addressed. That policy concerns transfer of courses and grades between UM campuses and likely resulted from one UM campus not recognizing a course and grade awarded by another UM campus as counting toward a similar degree. While it is not clear that this 1973 policy (210.040) was associated with the creation of the "UM GPA," it is reasonable to assume so. The "Intercampus Transfer" policy stipulated four points. We only need to be concerned with the first point. The first point stated that any course leading to a degree at one UM campus would be accepted at any other UM campus as counting toward the same degree **and that grades and quality points would also be transferred and included in the cumulative GPA.** To me, this policy suggests that the UM campus receiving a transfer from another UM campus must recognize pluses and minuses awarded by the sending campus, even if the receiving campus does not award them. That would appear to answer the first, intercampus, policy concern.

The second area of concern is directed at those policies affecting academic status and scholarship eligibility within a campus (e.g., academic good standing, graduation requirements, and eligibility for scholarships). But again, the potential problem may not be as difficult as first thought. In all cases, the problem of equal GPA computation and treatment by campus is largely moot because these policies have been defined in relation to a GPA number, not a letter grade average. Therefore, good academic standing requires a 2.0 GPA, not a C average. A student with straight C-'s has a 1.7 GPA and is therefore not in good academic standing. If the wording had required a C average then a discussion of what level of C was acceptable would have been more critical. The campuses may suggest that the GPA required for good standing be examined and possibly changed to a 1.7, but that discussion is not made critical by System policy or the advent of plus/minus grading. Similarly, the student described in scenario "d" above, who was seemingly penalized because his institution awarded pluses and minuses, represents many students who will recognize that they would have benefitted under a different grading system. It is unfortunate that campus policies differ, but in the absence of evidence to the contrary, it must be assumed that an equal number will apparently benefit from plus/minus grading as are penalized. Perhaps another student's B would have been a B+ and she would have qualified for a full award if pluses and minuses were allowed at her campus.

There is a third area of concern that is not addressed in Board policy but is practically more important. Should campuses recognize pluses and minuses from sending institutions that are not part of the University of Missouri System? I would recommend that they do so for purposes of admission and assigning transfer credit. Whether the receiving institution awards plus and minus grades is a separate issue from whether the sending institution was able to assign them. In evaluating transcripts, it would seem that increased precision would be desired. Not recognizing pluses and minuses from transferring students' transcripts made more sense when our operational systems were not designed to handle them. That is not, or soon will not be, a problem. There may also be cases where a currently enrolled student will ask for their transcript to be evaluated again to include pluses and minuses earned at a prior institution. I recommend that the transfer record should not be changed because it became a UM record when the student enrolled and the student's enrollment was tantamount to acceptance of the evaluation of the transfer record.

A related problem has resulted from UM-Kansas City's fall 1993 use of an A+ letter grade assigned 4.3 quality points. UM-Kansas City adopted plus/minus grading before System policy

regarding letter grades and quality points was established. The System policy effective winter of 1994 does not recognize A+'s and does not recognize quality points greater than 4.0. Otherwise, the UM-Kansas City and System policies are the same. Therefore, UM-Kansas City has a transcript anomaly of limited impact resulting from the presence of a few A+ grades. The fall 1993 A+'s should probably be treated as aberrations in campus practices and policies and no effort should be made to change them. How could we do otherwise? However, I recommend that the A+'s of transferring UM-Kansas City students not be recognized by other UM campuses and that UM-Kansas City be asked to change the quality points assigned an A+ in fall 1993 from 4.3 to 4.0.

A fourth area concerns crediting transfer courses toward the degree when credit is dependent on a letter grade. If a student must have B's in all courses required for the major, are transfer B-'s acceptable? In my opinion, that decision would properly rest with the campus academic unit responsible and would apply equally to transfer courses from all other universities, including the UM campuses.

#### Concluding Remarks

In my opinion, Board policy requires that a UM campus receiving a UM transfer student's application must recognize plus and minus grades if awarded by the sending UM campus. I also suggest that this policy be extended to transfers from other institutions. In my judgment, policies regarding academic standing and eligibility are unaffected by plus/minus grading because the level of performance required has been stated relative to a GPA figure, not a letter grade average. Whether the University should reconsider the GPA level required is a separate issue. Lastly, I suggest that the faculty should consider the level of performance required when course performance standards have been established as letter grades. This would not concern a required minimum GPA in the major but would concern a required minimum grade in courses in the major.

Some students will have lower GPA's if pluses and minuses are considered and others will have higher GPA's if they are ignored. This is an issue that can be researched as pluses and minuses are used on campus. In the long run, it is unlikely that pluses and minus will have an appreciable effect of the cumulative GPA, but more importantly, it is probably irrelevant because the goal was increased accuracy in grading and pluses and minuses allow the faculty greater precision.

c: Phil Harrison  
Larry Gates  
DAR's



## MEMORANDUM

Chancellor/Provost  
816 235-1101

Vice Provost/Executive Dean  
Academic Affairs  
816 235-1107

Vice Chancellor  
Administrative Affairs  
816 235-2754


Vice Chancellor  
University Advancement  
816 235-1105

Vice Chancellor  
Student Affairs  
816 235-1141

Fax  
816 235-5189

DATE: December 10, 1993

TO: Marvin R. Querry  
Executive Vice Provost/Executive Dean  
Academic Affairs

FROM: Gary E. Widmar   
Vice Chancellor  
for Student Affairs

SUBJECT: Plus/Minus Grading

An new issue has arisen that needs your immediate attention since it impacts the grade recording for this semester. Currently, students who are enrolled for a course on a pass/fail basis are actually given a letter grade by their instructor. An A, B or C letter grade has been translated by the registrar's office as a pass for the course and everything else a fail. In many cases the faculty member is not even aware of the fact that the student has enrolled on a pass/fail basis. The question which needs an immediate answer is: what letter grade (C or C-) should be the cut-off for pass/fail courses?

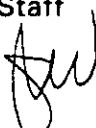
I look forward to hearing your decision.

c:  Wilson Berry

Call from Deb Lewis at 1:30, Dec 13, said that  
Dr. Querry said that C- would be pass/credit,  
D+ would be fail/no credit.  
Wilson Berry



MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 8, 1993  
TO: All Faculty and Staff  
FROM: Gary E. Widmar   
SUBJECT: Plus/Minus Grading System

Chancellor/Provost  
816 235-1101

Vice Provost/Executive Dean  
Academic Affairs  
816 235-1107

Vice Chancellor  
Administrative Affairs  
816 235-2754

Vice Chancellor  
University Advancement  
816 235-1105

Vice Chancellor  
Student Affairs  
816 235-1141

Fax  
816 235-5189

A number of questions have arisen regarding the impact of the newly approved (+) (-) grading system on such issues as satisfactory academic progress, eligibility for merit scholarships (eg. Curator's scholarship), renewal of scholarships, academic "good standing," etc. I am writing to clarify the process we will follow and what impact the new grading system will have on these and related issues.

The Registrar will receive the grades as assigned by the faculty and a grade point average will be calculated. All academic progress or scholarship requirements have GPA requirements against which we measure student status. These will not be changed by the new (+)(-) grading system. For example, a student who receives a "C-" (or 1.7) in his/her coursework would not be in "academic good standing" which requires a 2.0 GPA. Similarly, a student with a "B" average (3.0) would have a scholarship renewed which had a 3.0 renewal criteria but a student with a "B-" GPA (2.7) would not.

If you have any questions regarding the new grading system and its impact on student academic requirements, please call Wilson Berry at 1215.



Registration and Records  
University of Missouri-Kansas City  
Student Services Building  
4825 Troost Avenue  
Kansas City, Missouri 64110-2030

Registrar  
816 235-1213  
Records Office  
816 235-1121  
Registration Office  
816 235-1125  
Fax 816 235-1717

October 28, 1993

**FILE COPY**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Gary Widmar

FROM: Wilson Berry

*Wilson Berry*

SUBJECT: Grades for FS93

I am enclosing copies of two memos pertaining to the plus-minus grading system. If the A+ grade is not going to be used beyond the fall semester 1993 I would highly recommend that it not be used for the fall semester. To do so could only lead to confusion in the future.

Enclosures



Registration and Records  
University of Missouri-Kansas City  
Student Services Building  
4825 Troost Avenue  
Kansas City, Missouri 64110-2030

Registrar  
816 235-1213  
Records Office  
816 235-1121  
Registration Office  
816 235-1125  
Fax 816 235-1717

October 25, 1993

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Jim Givens, Jr.  
401 Clark Hall  
University of Missouri  
Columbia, MO

FROM: Wilson Berry  
Registrar

**FILE COPY**

The following are the grades and the vocabulary to be spoken for those grades at the University of Missouri-Kansas City:

A+	A Plus
A	A
A-	A Minus
B+	B Plus
B	B
B-	B Minus
C+	C Plus
C	C
C-	C Minus
D+	D Plus
D	D
D-	D Minus
F	F
W	Withdrawn
WF	Withdrawn Failing
I	Incomplete
AT	Audit
CR	Credit
NC	No Credit
T	Continuous Enrollment, grade not available
S	Satisfactory
P	Pass
U	Unsatisfactory
Blank	No grade Submitted
RA	Repeated course, grade not available
RB	Repeated course, grade not available
RC	Repeated course, grade not available
RD	Repeated course, grade not available
RF	Repeated course, grade not available
RI	Repeated course, grade not available



Registration and Records  
University of Missouri-Kansas City  
Student Services Building  
4825 Troost Avenue  
Kansas City, Missouri 64110-2030

Registrar  
816 235-1213  
Records Office  
816 235-1121  
Registration Office  
816 235-1125  
Fax 816 235-1717

October 5, 1993

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Gary Widmar

FROM: Wilson Berry

SUBJECT: Plus-Minus Grading Systems

This proposal is exactly the same as we have planned with one exception...it does not include an "A Plus" grade. I would support this plan over our own, especially since the College of Arts and Sciences does not plan to use the "A Plus" grade.

There is one minor problem that I should mention, however. We have just received a two year supply of transcript paper, and the explanation of the grading practices mentions the value of plus being applicable to grades "A" through "D". (see the highlighted area of the attached transcript form.) I do not feel that the adoption of this standard would preclude the use of this transcript paper, and we could change the explanation on our next order.







UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI SYSTEM

Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs

309 University Hall  
Columbia, Missouri 65211  
Telephone (314) 882-6399

September 27, 1993

RECEIVED

SEP 29 1993

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

TO: President George A. Russell  
Chancellor Charles A. Kiesler  
Chancellor John T. Park  
Chancellor Eleanor B. Schwartz ✓  
Chancellor Blanche M. Touhill

FROM: Richard Wallace

During the last meeting of the General Officers, I agreed to draft a board policy in regard to adoption of plus/minus grading systems. The intent is to assure uniformity among those campuses that adopt such a system.

I will ask that Dave Lendt add discussion of this document to the agenda for the next meeting of the General Officers.

lm

Enclosure

*Richard*

COLUMBIA KANSAS CITY ROLLA ST. LOUIS

an equal opportunity institution

PROPOSED BOARD POLICY  
IN REGARD TO PLUS/MINUS GRADING SYSTEMS

Any University campus or academic division electing to adopt a plus/minus grading system must use the system shown below:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Quality Points</u>
A	
A-	4.0
B+	3.7
B	3.3
B-	3.0
C+	2.7
C	2.3
C-	2.0
D+	1.7
D	1.3
D-	1.0
F	0.7
	0

Implementation of the uniform grading scale policy will be effective Winter semester 1994.




M E M O R A N D U M

May 11, 1993

Dean  
(816) 235-2010  
Associate Dean  
(816) 235-2021  
Associate Dean for  
Academic Affairs  
(816) 235-2010  
Assistant Dean for  
Clinical Affairs  
(816) 235-2137  
Assistant Dean for  
Business Affairs  
(816) 235-2020  
Fax (816) 235-2157

TO: Dr. Marvin R. Querry  
Vice Provost/Executive Dean for Academic Affairs

FROM: Dr. William E. Mayberry  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs 

RE: Plus/Minus Grading

The members of the faculty of the School of Dentistry have requested that we be allowed to adopt the plus/minus grading system beginning with the Fall Semester 1993. We understand that a plus will result in the addition of .3 quality points per credit hour.

Please advise me if there are any other actions we must take in order to accomplish this change.

WEM/cgbg

cc: Mr. Wilson Berry  
Dr. Michael Reed  
Dr. Daniel Tira  
Dr. Gary Widmar

January 20, 1993



MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Gary Widmar  
 FROM: Wilson Berry *Wilson Berry*  
 SUBJECT: Plus/Minus Grading Systems

Registrar  
 816 235-1213  
 Records Office  
 816 235-1121  
 Registration Office  
 816 235-1125  
 Student Information System  
 816 235-1778  
 Fax 816 235-1717

We have contacted several Universities in the Big 8 and Big 10 Conferences to determine their plus/minus grading policies. The results are as follows:

University	Plus/Minus	Value of Plus	Value of Minus
Iowa State	Yes	+.33	-.33
Nebraska	Plus ONLY	+.5	
Kansas	in 5 divisions	+.3	-.3
Kansas State	No		
Oklahoma	Law School only		
U. MO Columbia	Proposed	+.3	-.3
Michigan	Yes	+.3	-.3
Michigan State	No..use numeric		
Wisconsin	Modified (AB,BC,etc)	+-.5	
Ohio State	Yes	+.3	-.3
Iowa	Yes	+.33	-.33
Illinois	Law School Only		
Northwestern	No..use numeric		
Purdue	No		
UMKC	Proposed	+.3	-.3
UMKC	Law School (current)	+.3	-.3

In summary, of thos schools using (or who propose using) a plus/minus grading system, the results are as follows:

Number of Schools	Quality Point Value
5	+.3, -.3
2	+.33, -.33
2	+.5
2	Numeric (ie, 0, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0)

Office of the Chancellor

University of Missouri-Kansas City  
5100 Rockhill Road  
Kansas City, Missouri 64110-2499



MEMORANDUM

OK  
WB  
10/26/92, 9:55 A.M.

DATE: October 26, 1992  
TO: Marvin Querry, Vice Provost/  
Executive Dean  
FROM: Gary Widmar, Vice Chancellor for  
Student Affairs  
SUBJECT: Plus/Minus Grading System

Chancellor  
816 235-1101  
Vice Chancellor  
Academic Affairs  
816 235-1107  
Vice Chancellor  
Administrative Affairs  
816 235-2754  
Vice Chancellor  
University Advancement  
816 235-1105  
Vice Chancellor  
Student Affairs  
816 235-1141  
Fax  
816 235-5189

A question regarding the feasibility of implementing a plus/minus grading system was asked recently by Dean Mocker. At the present time the School of Law awards plus and minus grades, with a value of 0.3 above or below that grade's base value. The following quality points are awarded for each credit hour of work at the specific grade:

Grade	Quality Points
A+	4.3
A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0
D-	.7
F	0

With the introduction of optical scan grade rolls, we can implement this grading system for the campus relatively easily. Acceptance of the grading system by all academic units would be necessary. No individual instructor would necessarily have to use this grading system... they could merely assign the grade without any suffix as is the case at the present time.

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All academic units must adopt the Plus/Minus grading system if it is to be used for any student, regardless of the student's academic unit, taking a course in the awarding unit. In other words, if Arts and Sciences should elect to award grades based upon the Plus/Minus grading system, a student from the Conservatory could not receive a plus nor minus grade unless the Conservatory should also elect to use (accept) the same system. The receipt of the grade is based upon the student's academic unit rather than the instructor's academic unit.

The new Opscan grade rolls will have room for only the regular A - F grading system as individual grades. We will be able to insert a block for plus and another for minus on each line, which could be used along with any grade. This will require the instructor to fill in two blocks on each affected line on the grade roll to assign a plus or minus grade rather than one for the letter grade only.

While quality points will reflect a numerical value to one decimal point (e.g., B+ = 3.3) for any given course grade, cumulative GPA's for either a given semester or total academic experience will continue to be correct to 3 decimal nomenclature (e.g., 3.565).

If there is agreement, we can implement this for the Spring 1993 semester.