



Faculty Senate Office  
Ashe Administration Building, #325  
1252 Memorial Drive  
Coral Gables, FL 33146

[facsen@miami.edu](mailto:facsen@miami.edu)  
web site: [www.miami.edu/fs](http://www.miami.edu/fs)  
P: 305-284-3721  
F: 305-284-5515

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Donna E. Shalala, President

**From:** Richard L. Williamson  
Chair, Faculty Senate

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard L. Williamson'.

**Date:** April 30, 2014

**Subject:** Faculty Senate Legislation #2013-39(D) – Faculty Senate Academic Standards  
Committee Grading Report for Fall 2011 – Fall 2013

\*\*\*\*\*

The Faculty Senate, at its April 23, 2014 meeting, voted unanimously to accept the Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee Grading Report for fall 2011 – fall 2013.

The report and recommendations are enclosed.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your information.

RLW/rh

Enclosure

cc: Thomas LeBlanc, Executive Vice President and Provost  
William Green, Senior Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education  
Don Stacks, Chair, Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee

## April 2014 Undergraduate Grading Report Fall 2011 – Fall 2013

*Annual Report on Undergraduate Grading  
Prepared by the Faculty Senate Committee on Academic Standards<sup>1</sup>*

**Purpose of this Report:** To provide a Faculty Senate sponsored assessment of grades earned by full-time students by teaching school.

**Summary:** The average grade point average (GPA) earned by undergraduates and new freshmen continues to remain steady. The range of undergraduate GPA is 0.57, with Special & Joint Programs the highest (3.78) and the Rosenstiel School the lowest (3.21). A similar range of highest and lowest schools was observed for new freshmen. The retention rate for new freshmen is steady, while the retention rate for new transfers dropped by 5%.

### GPA Statistics for fall 2011-2013 Freshmen and All Undergraduates

An assessment of the GPA statistics shows little variability over the previous years. As shown in Tables 1 and 2, the overall fall 2012 undergraduate average was 3.30 and the new freshman GPA was 3.35. Figure 1 shows the results for new freshmen over the past 10 years, which demonstrates little variability in mean GPA over time.

Table 1 Average Semester Grades Earned by Full-Time Degree Undergraduates by Teaching School Fall 2011										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	Sp/Joint.
<b>GPA</b>	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.2	3.6	3.3	3.2	3.7
Fall 2012										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	Sp/Joint.
<b>GPA</b>	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.6	3.3	3.2	3.8
Fall 2013										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	Sp/Joint.
<b>GPA</b>	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.7	3.4	3.3	2.6

Table 2 Average Semester Grades Earned by Full-Time Degree New Freshman by Teaching School Fall 2011										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	Sp/Joint.
<b>GPA</b>	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.7
Fall 2012										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	Sp/Joint.
<b>GPA</b>	3.6	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.3	3.2	3.8
Fall 2013										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	Sp/Joint.
<b>GPA</b>	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.7	3.8	3.3	2.2

<sup>1</sup> Senate members of the Academic Standards Committee are: Lisa Baker, Rosina Cianelli, George Gonzalez, Kysha Harriell, Dorothy Hindman, Jean-Francois Lejeune, Rene Sacasas, Don W. Stacks (Chair), and Jorge Willemsen. Data for this report was provided by Mary Sapp, Peter Liu, Greg Roberts, and the Office of Planning and Institutional Research.

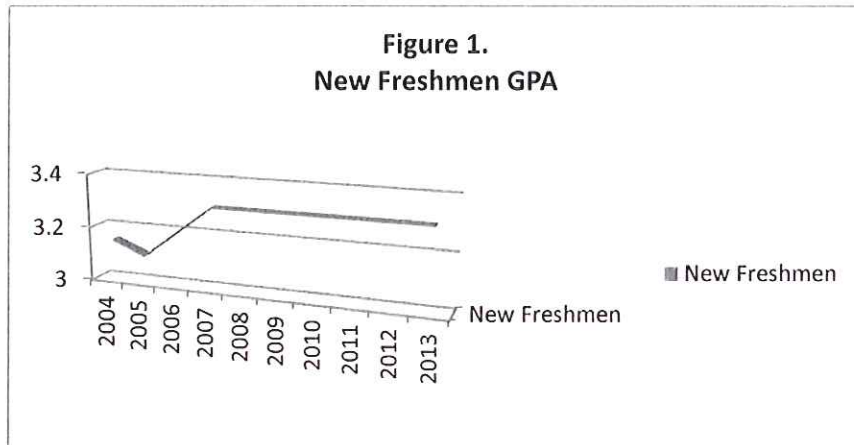


Table 3 displays the mean cumulative UM GPA for new transfers versus new freshman. As can be seen from this table, UM GPA for new transfer students continues to lag below the GPA for new (fall) freshman and has dropped 6/10s of a point.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>New Freshman Mean GPA</b>	3.27	3.25	3.27	3.30	3.33	3.34
<b>New Transfers Mean GPA</b>	2.90	2.98	2.98	3.00	3.04	2.98

Further, as can be seen in Table 4, the retention of new transfers is also lower than for new freshmen (90.1% vs. 91.3%) but represents a 7.6% increase in new transfer retention from 2011-2012.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>New Freshman</b>	90.4%	89.6%	89.7%	90.9%	91.4%	91.3
<b>New Transfers</b>	83.1%	86.0%	81.6%	87.1%	82.5%	90.1

### Conclusion and Recommendations

Grading patterns have not changed much over the years and new freshmen retention holds at 90+%. The increase in transfer retention is the highest over the six-year span, but the new transfer freshmen GPA continues to lag behind the new freshmen GPA. It is also noted that a drop in new freshmen in Continuing Studies (Sp/Joint) for all undergraduates and new freshmen occurred (3.8 to 2.6 and 3.8 to 2.2, respectively). It is recommended that the 2014-2015 Academic Standards Committee closely watch both to ascertain what factors if any are in play that might be addressed.