



## MEMORANDUM

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

**From:** Tomas A. Salerno  
Chair, Faculty Senate

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TAS', written over the name 'Tomas A. Salerno'.

**Date:** April 30, 2015

**Subject:** Faculty Senate Legislation #2014-36(D) – Faculty Senate Academic Standards  
Committee Undergraduate Grading Report and Recommendations

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The Faculty Senate, at its April 22, 2015 meeting, voted unanimously to accept the Academic Standards Committee Undergraduate Grading report and recommendations.

The report and recommendations are enclosed for your information.

TAS/rh

Enclosure

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

**April 2015**  
**Undergraduate Grading Report Fall 2013 – Fall 2014**

*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 0.36, with Architecture the highest (3.57) and Engineering the lowest (3.21). A similar range of highest and lowest schools was observed for new freshmen. The retention rate for new freshmen increased 1.3%, while the retention rate for new transfers dropped by 3.2%.

**GPA Statistics for Fall 2012 - 2014 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 2014 undergraduate average was 3.31 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 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 but has increased 9/10's of a point.

Table 1 Average Semester Grades Earned by Full-Time Degree Undergraduates by Teaching School <sup>2</sup> 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
Fall 2014										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	Cont. Stds.
<b>GPA</b>	3.6	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.6	3.2	3.4	2.77

Further, as can be seen in Table 4, the retention of new transfers is also lower than for new freshmen (92.6% vs. 86.9%) but represents a 3.2% decrease in new transfer retention from 2012-2013.

<sup>1</sup> Senate members of the Academic Standards Committee are: Lisa Baker, Hermann Beck, Rosina Cianelli, Kysha Harriell, Dorothy Hindman, Rene Sacasas, Terri Scandura, 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.

<sup>2</sup> Continuing Studies replaced Joint/Special Project.

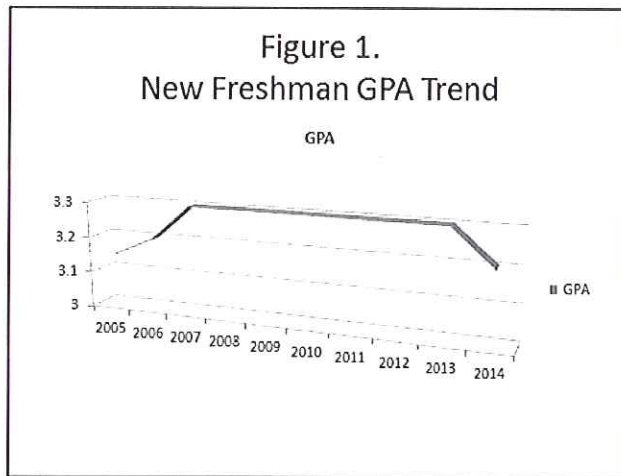
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	Sp/Joint.
<b>GPA</b>	3.6	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.3	3.2	3.8

	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

	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	Cont. Stds.
<b>GPA</b>	3.7	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.3	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.4	2.9



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>New Freshman Mean GPA</b>	3.25	3.27	3.30	3.33	3.34	3.34
<b>New Transfers Mean GPA</b>	2.98	2.98	3.00	3.04	2.98	3.07

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>New Freshman</b>	89.6%	89.7%	90.9%	91.4%	91.3%	92.6%
<b>New Transfers</b>	86.0%	81.6%	87.1%	82.5%	90.1%	86.9%

### Conclusion and Recommendations

Grading patterns have not changed much over the years and new freshmen retention holds at 90+%. The decrease in transfer retention is a concern. The new transfer freshmen GPA continues to lag behind the new freshmen GPA but improved slightly. It is also noted that the drop in new freshmen in Continuing Studies observed in 2013 for all undergraduates and new

freshmen GPA (3.8 to 2.6 and 3.8 to 2.2, respectively) appears to be closing. It is recommended that the 2015-2016 Academic Standards Committee closely watch both to ascertain what factors if any are in play that might be addressed.