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MEMORANDUM

To: Julio Frenk
University President

From: Tomás A. Salerno
Chair, Faculty Senate

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tomás A. Salerno'.

Date: April 21, 2016

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2015-34(D) – Faculty Senate Academic Standards
Committee Undergraduate Grading Report and Recommendations

The Faculty Senate, at its April 20, 2016 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 S. Green, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education
Kysha Harriell, Chair, Academic Standards Committee

April 2016

Undergraduate Grading Report Fall 2014 – Fall 2015

Annual Report on Undergraduate Grading

Prepared by the Faculty Senate Committee on Academic Standards¹

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 0.52, with Frost School of Music the highest (3.66) and College of Engineering the lowest (3.14). For new freshmen, the Frost School of Music the highest GPA (3.73) and School of Business Administration the lowest (3.25). The retention rate for new freshmen decreased 0.5% while the retention rate for new transfers increased by 2.4%.

GPA Statistics for Fall 2014 - 2015 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 2015 undergraduate average GPA was 3.31, and the new freshman GPA was 3.34. Table 3 shows the GPA results for new freshmen over the past seven years with little variability in mean GPA over time.

Table 1 Average Semester Grades Earned by Full-Time Degree Undergraduates by Teaching School/College/Division Fall 2013										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	Sp/Joint.
GPA	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. Div
GPA	3.6	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.6	3.2	3.4	2.77
Fall 2015										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	Cont. Stds. Div
GPA	3.6	3.29	3.23	3.48	3.41	3.14	3.66	3.26	3.34	n.a

¹ Members of the Academic Standards Committee are Lisa Baker, Rosina Cianelli, Dorothy Hindman, Kysha Harriell (Chair), Jean-Francois Lejeune, Charlotte Rogers, Rene Sacasas, Teresa Scandura, and Jorge Willemsen. Data for this report was provided by Peter Liu, Sheryl Borg, Greg Rogers from the Office of Planning Institutional Research, and Assessment.

Table 2										
Average Semester Grades Earned by Full-Time Degree New Freshman by Teaching School/College/Division										
Fall 2013										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	Sp/Joint.
GPA	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.7	3.8	3.3	2.2
Fall 2014										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	Cont. Stds. Div
GPA	3.7	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.3	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.4	2.9
Fall 2015										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	Cont. Stds. Div
GPA	3.68	3.29	3.25	3.60	3.35	3.59	3.73	3.68	3.36	n.a

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. Further, as can be seen in Table 4, the retention of new transfers is also lower than for new freshmen (92.1% vs. 89.4%) but represents a 2.4% increase in new transfer retention from 2014-2015.

Table 3							
Mean Cumulative GPA for New Transfers and New Fall Freshmen							
2009-2015							
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
New Freshman Mean GPA	3.25	3.27	3.30	3.33	3.34	3.34	3.33
New Transfers Mean GPA	2.98	2.98	3.00	3.04	2.98	3.07	3.11

Table 4							
Fall to Fall Retention Rate Trends, New Full-Time Freshmen and New Transfers							
2009-2015							
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
New Freshman	89.6%	89.7%	90.9%	91.4%	91.3%	92.6%	92.1%
New Transfers	86.0%	81.6%	87.1%	82.5%	90.1%	86.9%	89.4%

Conclusion and Recommendations

Grading patterns have not changed much over the years, and new freshmen retention holds greater than +90%. The new transfer's retention rate has improved and is close to 90%. The new transfer GPA continues to lag behind the new freshmen GPA but is improving. It is recommended that the 2016-2017 Academic Standards Committee continue to monitor GPA and retention patterns to ascertain what might need to be addressed in the future.