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MEMORANDUM

To: Julio Frenk
University President

From: Tomas A. Salerno
Chair, Faculty Senate

Date: March 23, 2017

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2016-38(D) – Faculty Senate Academic Standards
Committee Undergraduate Grading Report and Recommendations for Fall 2017

The Faculty Senate, at its March 22, 2017 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, Sr. Vice Provost and Dean Undergraduate Education
Kysha Harriell, Chair, Academic Standards Committee

**February 2017
 Undergraduate Grading Report Fall 2016**

Annual Report on Undergraduate Grading Prepared by the Faculty Senate Committee on Academic Standards¹

Purpose of this Report: This report provides 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 at 3.34. The range of undergraduate GPA is 0.42, with the Miller School of Medicine and the Frost School of Music having the highest GPA (3.62 for both) and the College of Engineering the lowest (3.20).

Sixty percent of all grades for full-time degree-seeking undergraduates were *As* while only 4% of all grades were either *Ds* or *Fs* (Table 1).

For new freshmen, the Miller School of Medicine has the highest GPA (3.74), followed by the Frost School of Music and Nursing and Health Sciences (3.71 for both). Freshmen students in the School of Business Administration had the lowest GPA (3.23). New transfer students in the Frost School of music had the highest GPA at 3.61. New transfer students in the College of Engineering and the School of Nursing and Health Studies had the lowest GPAs, averaging below a 3.0, at 2.85 and 2.97, respectively. The retention rate for new freshmen decreased 1.3% while the retention rate for new transfers increased by 1.3%.

Table 1. Distribution of Grades Awarded to Full-Time Degree Undergraduates Fall Semester 2016					
	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>F</i>
Number	32,977	15,348	4,592	921	912
Percentage	60%	28%	8%	2%	2%

¹ Members of the Academic Standards Committee are Kysha Harriell (Chair), Rosina Cianelli, Dorothy Hindman, Charlotte Rogers, Teresa Scandura, Dennis Smith, Joseph Treaster, Jamie Walls, Jorge Willemsen, R. Stephen Cantrell (Ex officio), and William Scott Green (Ex officio). Data for this report was provided by the Division of Enrollment Management and the Office of Planning, Institutional Research, and Assessment.

GPA Statistics for Freshmen and All Undergraduates: An assessment of the GPA statistics shows little variability over the previous years. As shown in Tables 2 and 3, the overall Fall 2016 undergraduate average GPA was 3.34 (up 0.03 from last year), and the GPA for new freshman was 3.35. Table 4 shows the GPA results for new freshmen over the past four years with little variability in mean GPA over time. The GPA of new transfer students continues to lag below the GPA for new (Fall) freshman but has remained steady since last year and is up from previous years.

Fall 2015-Fall 2016 Retention Statistics for New Freshmen and Transfers: As seen in Table 4, the retention rate of new freshmen decreased from 92.1% to 90/8% (-1.3%) while the new transfer retention rate increased from 89.4% to 90.7% (+1.3%) from last year. This 90.7% retention rate for new transfer students is a seven-year high.

Table 2. 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.
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.
GPA	3.6	3.29	3.23	3.48	3.41	3.14	3.66	3.26	3.34	n.a
Fall 2016										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	MILLER
*CHrs	2,964	67,257	31,270	9,844	7,318	8,727	7,398	6,084	3,760	2,268
GPA	3.51	3.32	3.25	3.52	3.45	3.20	3.62	3.38	3.34	3.62
Total	3.34									

*Credit Hours

Table 3. 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	Cont. Stds.
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.
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.
GPA	3.68	3.29	3.25	3.60	3.35	3.59	3.73	3.68	3.36	n.a
Fall 2016										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	MILLER
*CHrs	398	19,685	4,602	1,220	602	615	1,558	219	782	20
GPA	3.65	3.32	3.23	3.61	3.33	3.42	3.71	3.71	3.28	3.74
Total	3.35									

Table 4. Fall to Fall Retention Rate Trends New Full-Time Freshmen, and New Transfers 2010-2016							
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
New Freshman	89.7%	90.9%	91.4%	91.3%	92.6%	92.1%	90.8%
New Transfers	81.6%	87.1%	82.5%	90.1%	86.9%	89.4%	90.7%

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Grading patterns have not changed much over the years. New freshmen and transfer retention rates hold greater than +90%, but the new transfer GPA continues to lag behind that of the new freshmen. The current Academic Standards Committee recommends the 2017-2018 Academic Standards Committee continue to monitor grade distributions, GPA, and retention patterns and to address any areas in need.

The 2017-2018 Committee may also consider examining the grade distribution of pure didactic classes and labs by course and section size (including independent study and practicum type courses) to achieve a finer-grained picture of grade distribution. In addition, to address the lagging GPA of new transfer students, the 2017-2018 Committee may request a report on admission standards for transfer students and the orientation services and academic resources available to transfer students.