



MEMORANDUM

To: Julio Frenk
University President

From: Linda L. Neider
Chair, Faculty Senate

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Neider', is written over the 'From:' line.

Date: April 22, 2021

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2020-82(D)- Faculty Senate Academic Standards
Committee Annual Grading Report

The Faculty Senate, at its April 21, 2021 meeting, had no objections to accepting the Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee Annual grading report which provides the Faculty Senate an assessment of grades earned by full-time students by teaching school.

The report is enclosed for your reference.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your information.

LLN/rh/va

cc: Jeffrey Duerk, Executive Vice President and Provost
Uzma Khan, Committee Chair, Professor, Herbert Business School

2020 UNDERGRADUATE GRADING REPORT

Prepared by

Academic Standards Committee University of Miami Faculty Senate

Uzma Khan (Chair), Ricardo Bascuas, Logan Connors, Joseph De Santis, Anthony Hynes,
Latoya Lewis-Pierre, Nicole Piquero, Glen Wiley, David Kelly (Ex officio), and Maria
Stampino (Ex officio)

The purpose of this report is 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 full-time degree undergraduates increased to 3.47 relative to 3.39 last year (Table 1). The range of undergraduate GPA is 0.41, with Frost School of Music having the highest GPA (3.79) and the College of Engineering and the School of Arts and Sciences the lowest (3.38). 69% percent of all grades for full-time degree-seeking undergraduates were A's and only 3% of all grades were either D's or F's (Table 2). An assessment of the GPA statistics shows slight increase over the years.

Statistics for New Freshmen and Transfer Students: As indicated in Table 5, for new freshmen, the average GPA was 3.41. The range of GPA was 0.57, with School of Music having the highest GPA (3.77) and the Rosenstiel School having the lowest (3.20). For new transfer students the range of GPA was 0.83, with the School of Music having the highest GPA (3.81) and the Rosenstiel School having the lowest (2.98).

Table 4 shows the GPA results for new freshmen and transfer students over 10-year period. The GPA of new freshmen stayed steady at 3.41 in 2020. GPA of transfer students improved to 3.28 in 2020 compared to 3.18 in 2019, though as in previous years it continues to lag below the GPA for new (Fall) freshman

Retention Statistics for New Freshmen and Transfers: As seen in Table 6, retention of new freshmen dropped to 90.6% in 2020 from 92.8% in 2019. The largest drop was observed in the School of Communication (7.6%) followed by School of Arts and Sciences (3.1%; Table 7). Retention of new transfer students increased 2.3 points to 91.0% in 2020 compared to 88.7% in 2019.

CONCLUSION

Grading patterns have not changed much over the years, and the new transfer GPA continues to lag behind that of the new freshmen (Table 4). The new freshmen retention rate dropped 2.2 points compared to the previous two years. While the drop may partly be due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is still concerning given that the committee was expecting an upward movement given the new initiatives launched in 2018 by UM to increase retention. Transfer students' retention rate on the other hand climbed back to the levels prior to 2019 (when a significant drop of 5.5 points was observed, suggesting that 2019 was likely an isolated aberration from the trend).

Table 1. Credit Hours and Average Semester Grades Awarded to Full-Time Degree Undergraduates by Teaching School/College/Division										
Fall 2014										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	MILLER
CHrs	3,054	72,535	28,742	9,666	7,316	8,119	7,572	4,812	4,137	1,863
GPA	3.57	3.29	3.22	3.42	3.42	3.21	3.56	3.24	3.35	3.44
Total	3.31									
Fall 2015										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	MILLER
CHrs	2,896	69,226	30,824	9,450	7,183	8,031	7,460	5,854	4,157	2,179
GPA	3.60	3.29	3.23	3.48	3.41	3.14	3.66	3.26	3.34	3.53
Total	3.31 (There are 36 credit hours taught under Special & Joint programs with GPA 3.43)									
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									
Fall 2017										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	MILLER
CHrs	2,927	66,409	30,971	9,832	7,322	8,842	7,817	6,939	2,862	2,210
GPA	3.58	3.35	3.31	3.54	3.42	3.26	3.61	3.31	3.47	3.58
Total	3.38 (There are 12 credit hours taught under Special & Joint programs with GPA 3.93)									
Fall 2018										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	MILLER
CHrs	3,002	66,571	31,699	10,835	7,957	8,327	7,707	6,740	4,480	2,464
GPA	3.62	3.34	3.31	3.59	3.47	3.21	3.69	3.40	3.45	3.67
Total	3.39									
Fall 2019										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	MILLER
CHrs	3,787	67,323	33,160	12,383	7,286	8,048	8,099	7,282	4,823	2,638

GPA	3.56	3.33	3.33	3.59	3.44	3.24	3.73	3.41	3.47	3.57
Total	3.39 (There are 13 credit hours taught under Special & Joint program with GPA 3.98)									
Fall 2020										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	MILLER
CHrs	4,494	68,081	35,508	11,724	7,142	7,861	8,857	7,873	4,437	2,879
GPA	3.68	3.38	3.43	3.66	3.50	3.38	3.79	3.55	3.55	3.63
Total	3.47 (There are 159 credit hours taught under Special & Joint program with GPA 3.94)									

Table 2. Distribution of Grades Awarded in Fall Semester 2020 (split by school is later)					
	A	B	C	D	F
Full-Time Degree Undergraduates	69%	22%	6%	1%	2%
Full-Time New Freshmen	71%	20%	6%	2%	2%

**Table 3. Average Semester Grades Awarded to Full-Time Degree
 New Freshman by Teaching School/College/Division**

Fall 2014										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	MILLER
GPA	3.66	3.33	3.24	3.44	3.30	3.75	3.61	3.71	3.37	3.96
Total	3.35									
Fall 2015										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	MILLER
GPA	3.68	3.29	3.25	3.60	3.35	3.59	3.73	3.68	3.36	3.85
Total	3.34									
Fall 2016										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	MILLER
GPA	3.65	3.32	3.23	3.61	3.33	3.42	3.71	3.71	3.28	3.74
Total	3.35									
Fall 2017										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	MILLER
GPA	3.54	3.37	3.36	3.55	3.32	3.34	3.69	3.49	3.45	3.89
Total	3.40									
Fall 2018										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	MILLER
GPA	3.61	3.39	3.36	3.63	3.44	3.38	3.74	3.28	3.46	3.82
Total	3.42									
Fall 2019										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	MILLER
GPA	3.67	3.36	3.40	3.66	3.44	3.56	3.82	3.44	3.34	3.91
Total	3.42 (There are 10 credit hours taught by Special & Joint programs with GPA 3.97)									
Fall 2020										
	ARCH	A & S	BUS	COMM	EDU	ENG	MUSIC	NUR	ROSEN	MILLER
GPA	3.74	3.33	3.43	3.71	3.54	3.43	3.80	3.50	3.43	3.68
Total	3.42 (There are 146 credit hours taught by Special & Joint programs with GPA 3.93)									

Table 4. Mean Cumulative GPA for Full-Time New Freshmen and New Transfers by Their Home School

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
New Freshman	3.31	3.33	3.39	3.34	3.33	3.34	3.39	3.42	3.41	3.41
New Transfer	3.01	3.04	3.10	3.07	3.11	3.11	3.17	3.19	3.18	3.28

Table 5. Mean Cumulative GPA for Full-Time New Freshmen and New Transfers by their Home School, Fall Semester 2020

Home School	New Freshmen		New Transfers		Difference in New Freshmen and New Transfers
	Mean Cumulative UM GPA	Number of Students	Mean Cumulative UM GPA	Number of Students	
Architecture	3.67	95	3.55	15	0.12
Arts & Sciences	3.39	777	3.30	181	0.09
Business	3.33	609	3.26	121	0.07
Communication	3.58	158	3.37	64	0.21
Continuing Studies	n.a.	0	n.a.	2	n.a.
Education & Human Dev.	3.40	83	3.13	14	0.27
Engineering	3.31	157	3.26	23	0.05
Rosenstiel School	3.20	116	2.98	10	0.22
Frost School of Music	3.77	122	3.81	9	-0.04
Nursing & Health Studies	3.48	183	3.08	23	0.40
TOTAL	3.41	2,300	3.28	462	0.13

The mean GPA is not provided if the total number of students is three or less; such cells contain "n.a."

**Table 6. Fall to Fall Retention Rate Trends
 New Full-Time Freshmen, and New Transfers
 2012-2020**

	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
New Freshman	91.4%	91.3%	92.7%	92.1%	90.8%	90.9%	92.4%	92.8%	90.6%
New Transfers	82.5%	90.1%	86.9%	89.4%	90.7%	89.9%	94.2%	88.7%	91.0%

Table 7. Fall to Fall Retention Trends by Schools

New Freshmen	2011-2012		2012-2013		2013-2014		2014-2015		2015-2016		2016-2017		2017-2018		2018-2019		2019-2020		Change	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	1 yr	4 yr
ARCH	37	97.3	52	100	40	95.0	34	88.2	32	87.5	37	100	42	97.6	48	93.8	82	92.7	-1.1	5.2
A & S	923	90.8	835	92.1	899	92.2	845	92.7	775	90.5	850	89.4	815	92.5	834	93.2	772	90.0	-3.1	-0.4
BUS	434	91.5	424	90.5	454	92.5	491	91.4	500	91.4	482	91.1	542	91.7	572	92.3	524	89.7	-2.6	-1.7
COMM	169	92.9	132	85.6	148	95.3	93	91.4	142	88.7	117	88.9	155	93.5	140	95.0	143	87.4	-7.6	-1.3
EDU	60	93.3	60	93.3	64	89.1	60	90.0	69	89.9	56	94.6	72	90.3	94	88.3	91	87.9	-0.4	-1.9
ENG	229	90.4	208	91.8	280	92.9	262	94.3	251	90.8	200	93.0	206	91.7	228	94.3	185	93.0	-1.3	2.1
ROSEN	112	95.5	108	91.7	90	91.1	85	96.5	98	90.8	116	87.9	87	92.0	110	92.7	97	94.8	2.1	4.0
MUSIC	114	92.1	101	88.1	82	95.1	126	88.1	105	93.3	98	96.9	133	89.5	134	91.0	117	94.9	3.8	1.5
NUR	60	86.7	66	93.9	57	93.0	56	87.5	85	91.8	86	93.0	133	96.2	182	92.9	168	91.1	-1.8	-0.7
Overall	2,139	91.4	1,987	91.3	2,114	92.6	2,052	92.1	2,057	90.8	2,042	90.9	2,185	92.4	2,342	92.8	2,180	90.6	-2.2	-0.2

New Transfer	2011-2012		2012-2013		2013-2014		2014-2015		2015-2016		2016-2017		2017-2018		2018-2019		2019-2020		Change	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	1 yr	4 yr
ARCH	9	77.8	16	100	10	80.0	3	100	12	100	7	100	11	100	8	87.5	17	88.2	0.7	-11.8
A & S	303	82.2	279	90.3	316	86.4	311	90.4	276	90.2	275	87.3	274	94.5	248	85.9	262	90.8	5.0	0.6
BUS	32	84.4	28	92.9	22	81.8	20	95.0	35	91.4	24	95.8	28	96.4	44	93.2	32	96.9	3.7	5.4
COMM	76	88.2	90	91.1	86	94.2	85	90.6	75	94.7	68	89.7	79	93.7	81	93.8	83	89.2	-4.7	-5.5
EDU	42	76.2	39	92.3	20	90.0	43	90.7	30	93.3	16	87.5	36	91.7	36	86.1	32	71.9	14.2	-21.5
ENG	38	78.9	34	79.4	30	70.0	42	88.1	33	81.8	30	90.0	45	95.6	38	92.1	45	95.6	3.5	13.7
ROSEN	15	86.7	5	80.0	16	81.3	5	100	6	100	3	66.7	5	60.0	6	83.3	9	88.9	5.6	-11.1
MUSIC	13	76.9	13	92.3	17	100	19	78.9	16	93.8	11	100	10	90.0	11	81.8	4	100	18.2	6.3
NUR	26	88.5	33	90.9	33	90.9	27	74.1	32	84.4	98	94.9	99	94.9	94	90.4	108	95.4	4.9	11.0
Overall	555	82.5	538	90.1	551	86.9	555	89.4	515	90.7	533	89.9	587	94.2	567	88.7	592	91.0	2.3	0.4

Note: N is total number in first fall cohort; % is the percent returned/graduated adjusted for deceased