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April 14, 2011

To: Ann Wylie
            Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost

From: Linda Mabbs
            Chair, University Senate

Subject: Recommendations Regarding the Proposal to Review the University of Maryland Policies Concerning Academic Transcripts and Calculations of Grade Point Average (Senate Document#: 10-11-11)

The Senate Executive Committee (SEC) charged the Academic Procedures & Standards (APAS) Committee with reviewing a proposal entitled, "Proposal to Review the University of Maryland Policies Concerning Academic Transcripts and Calculations of Grade Point Average", Senate Document 10-11-11. The committee was charged with reviewing the entire history and past review of this policy and to make recommendations for changes to the existing policy if appropriate.

The APAS Committee reported back to the SEC at its meeting on April 8, 2011. They clarified that while the University Senate approved a recommendation to adopt a +/- grading system in December 2005 and the President approved the policy, implementation of the system was delayed by the Office of the Provost in 2006. The APAS Committee recommends that the Office of the Provost develop an implementation plan for the transition to +/- grading. The committee has also requested that the plan include the following elements:

1. Reevaluation of the likely impact on the current student population of changing to +/– grading
2. Identification of criteria for readiness for transition to +/– grading
3. A timeline for implementation, including contingency plans in case the necessary conditions are not yet present.

Given the potential complexity of implementing +/- grading, the Committee also recommends that a joint Provost/Senate oversight committee be established to help define and discuss issues related to implementation and develop possible solutions for problems that may arise. This committee should include representatives from the Office of the Registrar, the Graduate Council, the Office of the Provost, the APAS Committee, the Office of Information Technology, and other who broadly represent the academic community.

The SEC would like to request that you consider the APAS Committee's recommendations. We would appreciate it if you could send us a report describing your actions regarding this request by November 1, 2011. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Attachment