

WCU Grading Policy for A+

**Presented on the Senate Floor on**: October 28, 2013

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**An SGA Senate Resolution to: An SGA Senate Resolution to:** Request that WCU change its undergraduate grading policy to allow the grade of A+ to be given the point value of 4.333, along with the stipulation that no undergraduate student graduate with a cumulative GPA above a 4.0.

**Background:**

Whereas, the current grading policy of Western Carolina University credits the undergraduate grades of A and A+ with the same point value of 4.000, this is inconsistent with the credit given to the grades of B+, C+ and D+ which receive 3.333, 2.333 and 1.333 respectively. For example if a student receives a B+ (3.333) and a B- (2.667) the grades average to a 3.0 GPA. The same applies to the grades of C+/C- and D+/D-. However, if a student earns the highest grade possible of an A+ (4.000) along with an A- (3.667) the grades average to be a 3.8 GPA, not a 4.0 GPA. The effect of this policy is that a student who takes five classes of equal credit hours could make the grades of A+, A+, A+, A+ and A- and receive a cumulative GPA of 3.93, not a 4.0; and,

Whereas, the grading policies of the universities making up the UNC system vary by institution, the UNC Board of Governors allows each institution to determine its own grading policy. There is no UNC system wide grading policy in force. Currently WCU along with ASU, UNC-Asheville, ECU and UNC-Wilmington does not give a 4.333 point value for an A+ grade. On the other hand, if a student attends NCSU or UNC-Greensboro he/she will receive a 4.333 point value for each A+ he/she earns, with the stipulation that an undergraduate cannot graduate with a cumulative GPA in excess of 4.0; and,

Whereas, WCU has the authority per the UNC Board of Governors to set its own grading policy for the grade of A+, consideration should be given to the many merits of awarding an A+ grade with a 4.333 point value. These merits include but are not limited to the following:

* WCU students and graduates compete head to head with other UNC students for scholarships, internships and the few jobs the current national economy affords. WCU students deserve every advantage that WCU has the power to provide. It seems that WCU is disadvantaging WCU students and graduates with a lower GPA vs. students and graduates from other UNC schools. Perception has a powerful effect on decision making. It is a fact that there are doors that a 4.0 GPA will open that a 3.968 GPA will not.
* Adopting the 4.333 point value for the grade of A+ would be valuable in WCU’s efforts to recruit the brightest students. As the current grading policy stands, a top student who attends WCU will receive a lower GPA for the same level of work than another UNC System university.
* Incenting and rewarding students for hard work should always be the highest priority for WCU. WCU could give the 4.333 point value as an incentive for achieving a 98-100 grade average in a course. Otherwise, why not just settle for a 94 average? There is currently no reward for the extra work.
* Adopting the 4.333 point value for an A+ would improve the WCU student body grade performance in comparison with its sister UNC System institutions. Using a 4.333 point value will incrementally increase the WCU student body average GPA statistics reported to the world.

Whereas, close examination of the facts show that continuing with the current WCU grading policy disadvantages the students, graduates and the University itself, an imminent change is called for. If the WCU grading policy is left unchanged a student could make all A+’s for four years and just one A- and not graduate with a 4.0. This is truly not a picture of fairness for WCU students.

**Therefore Be It Resolved That:**

The SGA of Western Carolina University supports a change to the undergraduate grading policy of WCU to allow the grade of A+ to receive the point value of 4.333, along with the stipulation that no undergraduate student graduate with a cumulative GPA above a 4.0, thereby placing WCU students in parity with sister institutions in the UNC system. Therefore be it further resolved; The SGA of WCU supports and urges the institution to adopt the following grading scale:

A+ = 4.333

A = 4.0

A- = 3.667

B+ = 3.333

B = 3.0

B- = 2.667

C+ = 2.333

C = 2.0

C- = 1.667

D+ = 1.333

D = 1.0

D- = 0.667

F = 0

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Jack Stewart Date

SGA Vice President

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Ryan Hermance Date

SGA President