Agenda

• A bit of history
• Plus / minus grading taskforce
• Timeline
• Three implementation strategies
  • Agent-based simulation
  • Dual-grading
  • History-based grading
• Food for thought
• Questions
A bit of history

• AY 2008 – 2009
  • Academic Senate studied adding +/- grades to our current grading system
  • Academic Senate approved the plus / minus grading system
• January 25, 2010
  • Provost announced the partial implementation of the RGS under three guiding principles in 2010-11
    • Greater grading granularity for faculty who choose to use it
    • Minimal impact on retention, student’s ability to retain financial aid and progress to degree completion
    • Fair and consistent implementation
  • Full implementation in AY 2011-2012
But then…

• There came two little things
  • Conversion to semesters
  • Implementation of the new Student Information System (SIS)

• February 25, 2010
  • Provost announced a moratorium on the implementation of the RGS

• April 2012, Provost lifted the moratorium
  • RGS taskforce met with the Provost to implement RGS as stated in January 25, 2010 memo

• Midsummer 2012
  • Taskforce agreed on 3 complementary strategies and process to implement the Provost’s recommendations
The taskforce

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sandra Connelly</td>
<td>COS</td>
<td>Risa Robinson</td>
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<td>James Heliotis</td>
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<td>Joseph Hornak</td>
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<td>Danielle Smith</td>
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<td>Alan Kaminski</td>
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<td>Robert Stevens</td>
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<td>Joe Loffredo</td>
<td>Registrar</td>
<td>Wiatt Strong</td>
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<td>Michael Long</td>
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<td>Linda Undehill</td>
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<td>Aaron McGowan</td>
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<td>Fernando Naveda</td>
<td>A. Affairs</td>
<td>Katrina Rex</td>
<td>A. Affairs (support)</td>
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Timeline

- **(Fall)** Partial implementation of RGS – Allow information flow and enable study of effects
  - Three strategies (designed to support partial implementation of RGS)
    1. Model-based simulation (in progress)
    2. Dual-grading
    3. History-based grading
  - Faculty participation
  - Data collection

- **(Winter)** Data analysis and report generation

- **(Spring)** Findings to the Provost and presentations / sharing with RIT community
Strategy 1 (Agent-based simulation)

- (Started Summer 2012) led by Dr. Michael Long, implemented by an advanced student
- To aid in the assessment of the impact of the RGS on student GPAs
- Model uses existing GPA data to simulate student / faculty behavior under a number of varying assumptions
  - From actual GPAs of graduating undergraduate students, creates a large student body
  - Creates a transcript with classes & letter grades for each student based on their GPA, creating different transcript for each student
  - Convert the class letter grades to percentages ranging from 60% to 100%
  - Recreate transcript that includes +/- grades
- Calculate new GPA and compare it to the old
Strategy 2

- **Dual-system grading – Fall 2012**
  - Fall 2012 – Randomly selected faculty invited to participate
  - November 18, 2012 – Grades using both grading systems
  - Official course grades this year are still on A, B, C, D, F grading system
  - Easy-to-use spreadsheet and designated email created to facilitate grade reporting and collection
  - Joe Voelkel (KGCOE) will process data and report results to committee
Strategy 3

• **History-based grading**
  • Randomly-selected faculty (hopefully the same from Strategy) will submit whole letter and +/- grades from previously taught courses (i.e., Spring 2012)
  • Same easy-to-use spreadsheet and designated email account used to report grades
  • Joe Voelkel (KGCOE) will process data and report results to committee
Strategies 2 and 3

- September 14, 2012 e-mail and CFP out to randomly-selected faculty to participate in dual-grading (#2) strategy
  - From list of faculty teaching fall 2012, 238 (20%) selected and mailed invitation to participate
  - These faculty will be contacted by committee members to explore willingness to participate in Strategy 3
  - 605 (15%) graduate and 3,445 (85%) undergraduate courses offered this fall
  - Taskforce expects same proportion of graduate and undergraduate courses reported for Strategies 2 and 3
- Grades back from faculty via designated e-mail: November 18, 2012 (Final quarter grades deadline)
- Winter 2012: evaluate data, produce reports & share with Provost
Food for thought

- Departments shall formulate guidelines on how the RGS will be used (J. Haefner, Winter 2009)
- There will be one grading system at RIT starting Fall 2013: RGS (J. Haefner, Sept 17, 2012)
- The choice of using +/- or whole letter grades will be a faculty prerogative
- Colleges must develop specific policy and guidelines regarding the implementation of the RGS
  - Multiple section course offerings (same term offerings)
  - Course sequences
  - Same course offerings (different terms)
Questions