Academic Affairs Committee  
April 9, 2009

Committee (2008/2009): Scott Anson; Elizabeth Kronfield; James Kwon; Christine Licata; Doug Meadows (co-chair); Bill Middleton (co-chair); Ed Mineck; Kristine Mook; Ashok Robin; Carol Romanowski; Andreas Savakis; Walter Wolf

Plus/Minus Grading Proposal

This year’s Academic Affairs Committee has completed work on its charge to consider whether RIT should change to a plus/minus grading system. The committee polled the faculty in all colleges and in student support. A large majority (on the order of 75%) of the faculty would like a change to a plus/minus grading system. The committee also looked at the grading schemes at many of our peer institutions. There is quite a variation of procedure among these schools, but the majority of them do use some form of plus/minus grading. After considering a number of grading schemes that incorporate plus and minus grades, the committee decided on the following proposal for consideration by the Academic Senate.

Plus/Minus Grading Proposal:

*RIT should change its grading system from the current set of whole letter grades*  

\[
\begin{array}{cccccc}
A & B & C & D & F \\
4.000 & 3.667 & 3.333 & 3.000 & 2.667 & 2.333 & 2.000 & 1.667 & 1.000 & 0.000
\end{array}
\]

To the following set of grades:

For purposes of GPA computation on a 4.0 scale, these grades will have values

Any letter grade requirements, such as the requirement of a “C or better” in a prerequisite mathematics course, should be reformulated in terms of the new set of grades by the unit responsible for the requirement.
**Comments:**

The most common rationale for using plus/minus expressed by the faculty was that it provides finer distinctions in grading and, consequently, is fairer to the students.

The most significant rationale for staying with whole letter grades was that it is not actually possible to make such fine distinctions and, consequently, whole letter grades are fairer to the students.

For simplicity of implementation, the committee recommends that, if approved, this change in the RIT grading system be initiated at the beginning of an academic year.