Minutes  
Policy Council  
March 4, 1987  

Approval of Graduate Grading Guidelines (document 87.36). Professor Cunningham introduced the topic by stating that this policy was adopted from Instructional Systems Technology's current grading guidelines. He stated that the information contained in document 87.36 constitute guidelines, not standards.

Professor Gregory asked if these guidelines were a guise for a distributive grading system. Professor Schwen commented that IST faculty had come to an agreement that the norms for grading had inflated over time; and by establishing guidelines, faculty think they are now doing a better job of distributing grades. Professor Goodman thought the advantage of a public statement would be to provide the same meaning to all students.

Professor Guskin stated that such guidelines would give the message that these are acceptable grades for doctoral students, but questioned how to best deal with the transition period. Professor Molenda said that such guidelines have not hampered IST students, and the "A" students are still receiving "A's." Professor Arnowe stated that under such guidelines, all students could reach high standards, and these guidelines should not be confused with absolute standards. Professor Molenda commented that there has been no dissent from IST faculty, and the anticipated negative trade-offs have not emerged.

Due to the lateness of the hour, Dean Mehlinger recommended that a vote be taken regarding the spirit of the document; and if it passed, specific wording changes could be presented at the next Policy Council meeting. Twelve voted in favor of the guidelines, and two were opposed. Professor Cunningham will present the revised document at the next Policy Council meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.