

87.42M

Minutes
Policy Council
March 25, 1987

Approval of Graduate Grading Guidelines (document 87.36R). Dean Kuh introduced the topic and explained that at the last Policy Council meeting, the approval of graduate grading guidelines was passed in principle, but members requested some revisions in the document's wording. Professors Molenda and Cunningham worked on document 87.36 and the revised document was sent to members for their perusal. Dean Kuh explained that this document comes moved and seconded from the Graduate Program Committee. Discussion followed.

Student member, Rachel Brooks, raised a question as to whether students' transcripts would carry explanations of the new guidelines when they are sent to prospective employers. Professor Schwen reported that when IST implemented this policy two years ago they had found that the transcript is the least important document in the student's file that is sent to prospective employers. Faculty are important mediators in the selection process, and he supports sending the grading guidelines as part of a student's file. In practice, he explained that the IST grading policy has not harmed the student. Professor Mikulecky asked if any attempt had been made to coordinate the School of Education's grading guidelines with any other schools or departments across campus. Professor Molenda responded that the descriptions in document 87.36R are similar to the School of Library and Information Science. Professor Guskin commented that the significant changes pertain to more B's being awarded than any other grade, and department chairs reviewing the grade distributions of faculty members within their department and monitoring adherence to these guidelines. The motion to adopt document 87.36R "Guidelines for Grades in Graduate Education Courses" was approved.

Professor Goodman recommended that Policy Council distribute the document as widely as possible, and faculty distribute the guidelines in their classes each semester. Dean Kuh said these guidelines would be on Administrative Council's next agenda, and he would also ask Professors Cunningham and Ochoa to find effective ways to ensure the document's distribution. Professor Molenda stated that he thought these guidelines would be a relevant item for the Task Force on Instruction to monitor. A motion was made, seconded and approved for the Task Force on Instruction to make an annual report to Policy Council regarding the implementation of the grading guidelines for graduate education classes.