

Plan of Ad Hoc Committee on Plus/Minus Grading  
Faculty Senate Report – 11/4/02

The committee plans to answer the following questions:

**Research Questions:**

1. Do ECU Benchmarks use +/-? If yes, how? If no, why not?
2. Do other KY universities use +/-? If yes, how? If no, why not?
3. What are the benefits to +/-? (increased grading resolution, motivating students)
4. What are the drawbacks to +/-? (recruitment, retention, scholarships)
5. Does +/- significantly minimize grade inflation?
6. What is ECU experience of +/- ? (usage rates, like vs. dislike)
7. What is ECU's preference—using +/- or not? If yes, which scale?

**Participants:**

External: ECU Benchmarks (18) and other Kentucky Universities (7)  
Internal: ECU faculty (100) and students (1000)

**Methodology:**

The method for answering these questions:

1. survey instruments developed by the Ad Hoc Committee  
phone survey to KY universities and benchmarks  
mail survey to ECU faculty and students
2. analysis of existing ECU data from Academic Year 2001-2002

**Review of the Literature:**

The final report will reflect a review of the literature.

**Timeline:**

The timeline of the Ad Hoc Committee is as follows:

- An introductory letter to the benchmarks and other KY universities, describing the phone survey, will be sent by November 15, 2002.
- Proposed Budget for Committee approved by December 2, 2002.
- **Data Collection** by January 1, 2003.
- **Data Analysis** completed by February 1, 2003.
- **Final Report**, including Findings and Recommendations to the Faculty Senate by April 2003.