The committee plans to answer the following questions:

**Research Questions:**

1. Do EKU Benchmarks use +/-? If yes, how? If no, why not?
2. Do other KY universities use +/-? If yes, how? If on, 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 EKU experience of +/-? (usage rates, like vs. dislike)
7. What is EKU’s preference — using +/- or not? If yes, which scale?

**Participants:**

External: EKU Benchmarks (18) and other Kentucky Universities (7)
Internal: EKU 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 EKU faculty and students
2. analysis of existing EKU 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.