

Proposal II.b

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We sent out an email to 20 professors in our sampling frame, but only a handful responded to the survey. One of the professors explicitly did not support the +/- grading system while the other four professors were in favor of the +/- system. Our pretest sample is so small that little information about the general opinion of the +/- grading system can be drawn.

The survey of the respondents all had at least one item missing. We believe that one of the reasons why the response rate was low and the survey was incomplete is the length of the questionnaire and the tendency of the question to be open-ended. Therefore, we modified the questions so that most of them are multiple-choice questions with some opinion questions still enclosed.

1. Job title (assistance professor, lecturer, etc)
2. Age
3. Gender
4. Highest degree earned
Bachelors Degree Masters Degree PhD Doctorate Others:
specify _____
5. Years teaching (including years at institutions other than CMU)
6. Years teaching at CMU
7. Number of courses currently teaching in spring 2011 semester?
8. Number of courses currently teaching in Spring 2011 semester
9. Did you attend schools that implemented +/- grading?
Yes No
10. If you said yes in question 9, do you think +/- grading affected your GPA?
Yes - Positively or Negatively No
11. Do you assign your letter grade quantitatively or qualitatively?
Quantitative Qualitative Other(please specify)
12. Do you have teaching assistant(s) for the course(s) you are currently teaching?
Yes No
13. If you answered 'Yes' in question 12, what range of percentage of grading do TAs do?
a) Less than 10% b) 10% ~ 30% c) 30% ~ 50% d) 50%~70%
e) More than 70%
14. Do you think +/- grading system will create more work for you or TAs for grading?
Yes No Don't know
15. Have you implemented +/- grading at CMU (for mid-semester grades or for students' reference, etc.)
Yes No

16. Have you ever bumped letter grades for students who are on the borderline between two different grades?

Yes No

17. If you answered "Yes" in question 16, What are your criteria for bumping a student's grade up? (For example, students' participation in class, continuous improvement in exams or homework)

18. Do you think +/- grading will affect students' efforts that they put into classes?

Yes No Don't know

19. Do you think +/- grading will increase or decrease students' average GPA

Yes No Don't know

20. Do you think +/- grading will increase or decrease students' chances of getting a job?

Yes No Don't know

21. Do you think your students in your class will prefer +/- grading system to the current system?

Yes No Don't know

22. On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate your opinion on CMU's current grading system?

1 (strongly disapprove) 2(disapprove) 3(neutral) 4(approve) 5
(strongly approve)

23. On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate your opinion on implementing +/- grading system at CMU?

1 (strongly disapprove) 2(disapprove) 3(neutral) 4(approve) 5
(strongly approve)

24. If you want to provide more detailed view on +/- grading, please specify here.