

*This message is sent on behalf of Jeremy Haefner, Provost and Senior Vice President  
for Academic Affairs*

Colleagues,

In the fall of 2014, the university implemented a refined grading scale, known colloquially as 'plus/minus grading'. Part of Policy D 05.0 "[Grading](#)," the goal of the program was to provide flexibility among instructors with regards to final course grades. During the 2015-16 academic year, the Academic Affairs subcommittee of the Academic Senate collected feedback, studied perceptions, and assessed responses to the change.

A white paper summarizing misconceptions, challenges, and opportunities of the new grading system was introduced at Academic Senate in the spring of 2017. This paper, "[Deliberate Grading](#)," is a great resource for faculty who may be seeking guidance or clarification regarding the application and effectiveness of the refined grading scale.

I would like to thank the authors of this paper, Dr. Matthew Fluet from the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences and Dr. P. Venkataraman from the Kate Gleason College of Engineering. Their work succinctly and clearly articulates both the challenges and opportunities that lie within the application of the refined grading scale, and it is my hope that both faculty and departments will take advantage of this resource.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Haefner  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs