

WCU SGA Senate Resolution

**Presented on the Senate Floor on**:

**Authored by**: Allison McAndrews, Kevin Grimes

**Co-Authored by:**

**An SGA Senate Resolution to:**

Implement contextual transcripts at Western Carolina University.

**Background:**

Whereas, grade inflation is a concern of the students and faculty at Western Carolina University;

Whereas, the SGA Senate is aware of the need to install measures to address its growth and persistence;

Whereas, the flagship institution of the UNC system, UNC Chapel-Hill, has taken the initiative in combating grade inflation by adopting contextual transcripts for undergraduate students; instituting them in the Fall Term 2014;

Whereas, the SGA Senate views the actions of UNC Chapel-Hill as a model to build its own policy for contextual transcripts in order to combat grade inflation, which will require transcripts to display the following:

* Adjacent to the final grade received in a course, the percent of students in the same course section that received the same final grade or lower, will be displayed.

Whereas, the policy outlined will combat grade inflation by 1) reflecting students’ true merit in any given course, 2) showing the difficulty to achieve higher marks in a given course, 3) providing context for employers and admissions committees of the previously stated benefits, as well as giving students who achieve at a high level the proper degree of desirability that should be reflected in their transcripts, and 4) additionally showing faculty at Western Carolina University grade distribution throughout course sections, which will help evaluations of grading practices within each department.

**Therefore Be It Resolved That:**

The SGA of Western Carolina University endorses in principle and requests the University Registrar to develop and implement for student transcripts for undergraduate work the system previously outlined within this resolution, reporting contextual grade information about each undergraduate course section.

**Be It Further Resolved That:**

The SGA of Western Carolina University requests the University Registrar to develop and implement a system of distributing at the end of each semester to all instructors of undergraduate course sections information about their grading patterns relative to the grading patterns of others in the department, division, and school and across the University, thereby encouraging faculty to use this information to inform future grading practices.

**Be It Further Resolved That:**

The chair of the Academic Policy Review Committee for the 2014-2015 academic year is requested to appoint an advisory committee to work with the University Registrar and the Office of the Provost in designing and implementing these reporting systems.

**Be It Further Resolved That:**

The Provost is requested to provide appropriate support for planning and implementing these reporting systems.

**Be It Further Resolved That:**

The Academic Policy Review Committee is requested to evaluate these reporting systems after the first academic year of its implementation.

**Be It Further Resolved That:**

The Academic Policy Review Committee is encouraged to continue to explore additional measures to ensure that grade inflation is continually being curbed and addressed as it sees fit.

**Be It Further Resolved That:**

The Academic Policy Review Committee, the Office of the Provost, and the Office of the Registrar implement this policy with all due speed deemed appropriate.

In Favor:\_\_\_\_\_

Opposed:\_\_\_\_\_

Abstentions:\_\_\_\_

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Ryan Hermance Date

SGA President

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Jack Stewart Date

SGA Vice-President