Grading System

Advantages

- Reduce grade inflation (if it is an issue)

Disadvantages

- May reduce student emphasis on extracurriculars and professional development in favor of solidifying GPA
- Less inherently structured programs are more subject to whims of professors. Not that we just distrust all of you, but you know from working with your colleagues that not everyone grades the same. It only takes one class to ruin a great GPA.
- Increased student stress because little performance differences become more significant for competitive students
- All students I have communicated with have been somewhere between indifferent and very strongly opposed with most of them leaning towards maintaining the current system
- Harder on some students with regard to post graduation plans where GPA is weighed more heavily, particularly when competing with students from other institutions
- Grades ≠ Learning. However, this perpetuates that idea by increasing scrutiny on grades.

- A cursory look into trends at schools with ± grading systems have shown decreases in average GPAs
- Professional Programs
- Graduate Programs
- Less critical for students entering directly into the workforce, but GPA is still a factor
- Will likely lead to more towards students seeking easy classes rather than useful ones
- Potentially lower grades could affect academic eligibility for clubs, athletics, and financial aid. Ultimately, these retention and admission rates, which could impair university budgets
- May reduce student emphasis on extracurriculars and professional development in favor of solidifying GPA
- Punishes higher achieving students by reducing the A range

- Option for ± with same GPA?
- How much would this affect GPAs of Drake students? What about peer institutions?
- Where would grade cutoffs be, and what would be the associated quality points?
- How much autonomy would individual professors have? (considering classes like chem or physics with adjusted grading scale)
- How would this affect students in programs, such as pharmacy, where students must maintain a certain GPA?
- How do A students at Drake compare to other institutions (standardized tests, etc...)? Do we effectively fight grade inflation as a university already?

- Reduce grade inflation (if it is an issue)
- May help GPAs for borderline students or those who fall regularly in the B range or below
- Students try harder to master material for finals rather than settling for a grade if they are borderline
- Decreased stress for some borderline students
- Could give more accurate gradations to indicate differences in student ability when Drake students apply and compete

- Effects on students applying to graduate and professional programs during first 4 years of implementation? Other school may figure the grades all as being under the ± system and alter grades?

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