

Cornell University Student Assembly

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Type of Action:	Recommendation
Status/Result:	New Business

S.A. Resolution #51

Recommendation for Cornell University to Amend its GPA Scale

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this resolution is to recommend that Cornell University reconsider its current undergraduate grading policies to promote uniformity and transparency.

Sponsored by: Christopher Schott '18

Whereas, there are inconsistencies across Cornell's various schools and departments in how professors assign letter grades to percentages (e.g., an A can be from 93%-97%, or from 94%-100%; an A+ can be a 97% and above or for 100% and above);

Whereas, professors often state that they do not give out A+'s, regardless of a student's grade in the class;

Whereas, Cornell University has the second lowest GPA average among its graduating seniors in comparison to other Ivy League universities;

Whereas, the following peer institutions have a GPA out of a 4.0 scale: Harvard, Princeton, Yale, UPenn, UC Berkeley, Duke, UCLA, Johns Hopkins, NYU, UChicago, Notre Dame, Northwestern;

Whereas, Princeton University changed its GPA from a 4.3 scale to a 4.0 scale in the 2001-2002 school year, and Rice University did the same in the Fall of 2018 (indicating that peer institutions are continually moving toward a 4.0 scale);

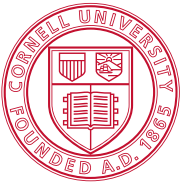
Whereas, according to U.S. News, 22.5% of their scoring to rank universities is based on graduation and retention rates, and whereas, Cornell University has the lowest retention rate in comparison to other Ivy League institutions;

Whereas, students are at a disadvantage when applying to graduate school, summer internships, and full-time job opportunities because of the confusion with the 4.3 scale;

Whereas, the current grading system leaves many students unsure of their grades throughout the semester, causing unnecessary stress and anxiety;

Be it therefore resolved, Cornell University should adopt a 4.0 GPA scale in order to compete with its peer institutions and to improve the academic experience of undergraduate students;

Be it further resolved, that any A+'s received by students can still count as a 4.3 grade toward the overall GPA on a 4.0 scale,



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43 **Be it finally resolved**, that Cornell University reevaluate its current grading system to improve
44 uniformity across schools and departments in how grades are calculated and given.

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46 **Respectfully Submitted,**

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48 Alexis Pollitto '18
49 *Chair, Student Assembly Academic Policy Committee*

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51 Shreya Mantrala '18
52 *Vice Chair, Student Assembly Academic Policy Committee*

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54 Aminah Taariq '21
55 *Member, Student Assembly Academic Policy Committee*

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57 Jack Ross-Pilkington '21
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72 *(Reviewed by: ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE, 14-0-1, 04/30/2018)*

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¹ <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/how-us-news-calculated-the-rankings>