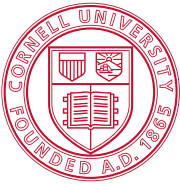


Cornell University Student Assembly

Originally Presented on:	11/29/18
Type of Action:	Sense-of-the-Body
Status/Result:	New Business

1 S.A. Resolution #18
2 Reinstating the Publication of Median Grades
3
4 ABSTRACT: This resolution seeks to encourage the Faculty Senate to investigate the possibility of
5 publishing median grade reports.
6
7 **Sponsored by: Osai Egharevba '21**
8
9 **Whereas**, from 1998 until 2011, the university published median grade reports at the end of each
10 semester for all courses whose enrollment was greater than 10; and
11
12 **Whereas**, in May 2011, the Faculty Senate voted to cease the publication of median grades out of
13 concerns regarding grade inflation; and
14
15 **Whereas**, median grades are recorded on student transcripts for graduate schools and employers to
16 view, but students are not allowed to view this data until after they have completed the
17 course; and
18
19 **Whereas**, at other universities, such as Dartmouth College and University of Michigan, median
20 grades are published *in addition* to being recorded on transcripts, establishing a concept
21 known as “Truth in Grading.”; and
22
23 **Whereas**, median grades for many courses have largely stayed the same (and in some cases have
24 increased) since the last time they were published, contradicting the argument that the
25 publication of median grades contributes to grade inflation; and
26
27 **Whereas**, a student’s course grade can easily be compared to the median grade for that course by
28 looking at their transcript¹, contradicting the argument that one can “shop” for supposedly
29 easy courses based on a median grade report; and
30
31 **Whereas**, various courses inherently have different grading bases and different faculty members
32 may have different grading standards for the same course, contributing to the difference in
33 median grades; and
34
35 **Whereas**, faculty often announce the expected median grade before the drop date for their courses
36 at the beginning of the semester, having the same effect as publishing a median grade report;
37 and
38

¹For instance, a student who earns a B+ in a course whose median grade is a B would indicate stronger performance than one who received an A- in a class whose median grade is an A.



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39 **Whereas**, academic transparency can be significantly improved by reinstating the publication of
40 median grades, in addition to maintaining them on student transcripts; and

41
42 **Whereas**, the Faculty Senate has the authority to reinstate the publication of median grades,
43 reintroducing the Truth in Grading concept; and

44
45 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly encourages the Faculty Senate to investigate
46 the possibility of reinstating the semesterly reporting of median grades.

47
48 Osai Egharevba '21
49 *College of Engineering Representative, Student Assembly*
50 *Member, Academic Policy Committee*

51
52 Moriah Adeghe '21
53 *Chair, Academic Policy Committee*

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55 Robert Sanchez '21
56 *Member, Academic Policy Committee*

57
58 Jojo Cheng '21
59 *Member, Academic Policy Committee*

60
61 TJ Hunt '21
62 *Member, Academic Policy Committee*

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64 Rachel Marciano '20
65 *Member, Academic Policy Committee*

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67 *(Reviewed by: Academic Policy Committee, 12-0-1, 11/8/2018)*