

Associated Students, Inc.
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo

Resolution #23-05

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE CAL POLY ACADEMIC GRADING SCALE

- WHEREAS: The ASI Board of Directors serves as the official voice of students at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly), San Luis Obispo, and
- WHEREAS: Students are currently unable to receive an “A+” on their transcripts in part due to the Cal Poly AS-118-81 resolution passed in 1981¹; and
- WHEREAS: The cited Academic Senate Resolution does not provide any room for an “A+” to be counted since “the grade A already indicates an excellent achievement of course objectives. It is expected that offering a grade level above 4.0 would lead to a downward adjustment of GPAs (Grade Point Average) by employers and graduate schools.”²; and
- WHEREAS: This can give a competitive advantage for Cal Poly students applying to postgraduate education programs. An A+ in a course specific to the program a Cal Poly graduate is applying to can show admissions staff their excellence in a subject, more than an “A” can³;
- WHEREAS: This advantage is most prominent for students applying to any Law School Admissions Council programs which evaluate transcripts themselves and award 4.33 grade points for each A+. A student’s GPA is one of the best variables to predict success in law school and is a metric law schools rely on heavily for admissions⁴; and
- WHEREAS: This are three other California State Universities (CSUs), California State University Monterey Bay, California State University Fullerton, and California State University Channel Islands that currently allow for the usage of an “A+” for their grading scales⁵; and
- WHEREAS: This Studies have shown that “Relative Autonomous Motivation positively affects academic performance through deep strategy towards study and higher study effort” wherein autonomous motivation refers to intrinsic goals that are self-assigned such as higher GPA⁶; and

1 AS-118-81: <https://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1117&context=senateresolutions>

2 AS-118-81: <https://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1117&context=senateresolutions>

3 Dr. Brennan Davis, Program director of Cal Poly’s MS Business Analytics program

4 Law School Admissions Council Transcript Summarization <https://www.lsac.org/applying-law-school/jdapplication-process/cas/requesting/transcript-summarization>

5 CSU Monterey Bay Grading Policy: <https://catalog.csumb.edu/content.php?catoid=1&navoid=31#grading-policy> CSU Fullerton Grading System:

<http://records.fullerton.edu/academics/gradingsystem.php>

CSU Channel Islands Policy on Grades: <https://policy.csuci.edu/sp/12/sp-12-007.htm>

6 Law School Admissions Council Transcript Summarization <https://www.lsac.org/applying-law-school/jdapplication-process/cas/requesting/transcript-summarization>

THEREFORE
BE IT

RESOLVED: The Cal Poly University Administration, in conjunction with the Cal Poly Academic Senate and other faculty work to update the current grading to allow for the inclusion of an A+ in the grading scale yet continue to count those receiving an “A” and above as a 4.0 and

FURTHERMORE
BE IT

RESOLVED: Those institutions that have modified their grading policies to provide their graduates with an “A+” create a slight competitive advantage over Cal Poly students and the current grading system at Cal Poly does not allow students to take advantage of this; and

FURTHERMORE
BE IT

RESOLVED: This will provide students who are more ambitious with the motivation to succeed at the highest levels, past achieving an “A” in a course. Transcripts of students that currently put in the effort to achieve what would be an “A+” are currently indistinguishable from those who would otherwise receive an “A.” Achieving an “A+” is a difficult feat in most classes, and it is important to recognize academic excellence; and

FURTHERMORE
BE IT

RESOLVED: The Cal Poly University Administration continues to review the current grading scale and its impact on the student body as it pertains to education beyond the undergraduate level and professional development; and

FURTHERMORE
BE IT

RESOLVED: The quarter-to-semester conversion transition presents the optimal opportunity for this to take place due to widespread required bureaucratic changes throughout Cal Poly; and

FURTHERMORE
BE IT

RESOLVED: This resolution be sent to University President Jeffrey D. Armstrong; Chair of the Cal Poly Academic Senate, Dr. Thomas D. Gutierrez; Vice President for Student Affairs Keith Humphrey; and Provost Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore.

Certified as the true and correct copy, in witness thereof, I have set my hand and Seal of the San Luis Obispo Cal Poly Associated Students, Inc. this 8th day of May, 2023.

ADOPTED at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors at San Luis Obispo Cal Poly Associated Students, Inc. this 3rd day of May 2023.

Attest:

ASI Secretary

Signed:

ASI Chair of the Board

Signed:

ASI President

Authored By:

Tyler Coari, Board of Directors, College of Liberal Arts
Brennan Brown, Student, Orfalea College of Business