



December 16, 2022

TO: Faculty Senate Steering Committee

FROM: Clif Stratton (chair) on behalf of the Syllabus Subcommittee

RE: University Syllabus Implementation; Final Grade Scale Policy Concerns

Dear Colleagues,

At its meeting on December 16, 2022, the Syllabus Subcommittee discussed two items of interest to Faculty Senate Steering Committee, including one that might warrant potential action on behalf of the Steering Committee.

1. The syllabus subcommittee is eager to hear from Steering regarding the implementation of the university syllabus. We realize that Steering is not able to decide until January at the earliest. In the meantime, Tom Tripp, who helped to pilot the university syllabus with small group of faculty and courses in Fall 2022, has inquired about the possibility of extending the pilot in Spring 2023 for those faculty and courses. The subcommittee agreed to stand up a “shadow” university syllabus page on its website for use by those faculty in Spring 2023. We will provide those faculty the direct link and hide the link from the main menu and will withhold any university-wide announcements in full implementation plans until Steering has an official decision.
2. Catalog subcommittee recently inquired of Syllabus subcommittee about policy regarding varied use of final grade scales (letters, plus/minus). CSC has recently received syllabi that do not offer the full slate of letter grade possibilities (i.e. only A, B, C, F). Academic Regulation #90 does not mandate that faculty offer the full complement of letter grades, but students could certainly interpret Academic Regulation #90 in such a way as to expect all options. This has the potential to put faculty in the position of having to defend their decision to *not* offer the full complement of letter grade



options. The Syllabus subcommittee agreed that it is not the body to set such a policy. We kindly refer this matter to Steering for consideration.

Please directly any questions or concerns to the Syllabus Subcommittee chair at clif.stratton@wsu.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clif Stratton".

CLIF STRATTON, Ph.D.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR (CAREER TRACK)

Department of History

College of Arts & Sciences

DIRECTOR, UNIVERSITY COMMON REQUIREMENTS

Division of Academic Engagement and Student Achievement

Office of the Provost

Wilson-Short Hall 320

Phone: 509-335-2230

Email: clif.stratton@wsu.edu