

Minutes of the University Council on Teaching
Monday, October 27, 2008
Waul House

information about the average grades in their department, in their school, and the GPA of students in their course. (This is no longer done.)

There was considerable discussion about how to explain to our students the differences among departments in granting A(s). We discussed how these discrepancies among departments might be explained, and agreed we probably needed more information about it. It was suggested that the UCT, or the dean, or the Provost might point out the discrepancies to student and faculty, and explain them to us. So it should be part of a conversation about grading and grade inflation. Could the deans or UCT come up with target average grades? Would that be feasible?

Are grades an incentive to students, or an evaluation of students' work? Various points of view were expressed. Don Hafner noted that, in a recent survey, only 48% of our seniors reported that faculty "frequently" provided them with intellectual challenge and stimulation. How is this related to grade inflation, if at all?

Chris Hepburn asked what recommendations we could suggest. Could departments be asked to come up with standards for grading within departments? And then discrepancies among departments could be addressed after that.