



University Senate PROPOSAL FORM

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| Name: | Mythili Mandadi |
| Date: | 3/27/2014 |
| Title of Proposal: | Proposal to Mandate the Use of ELMS and Reporting of Mid-semester Grades of all Instructors and Teaching Professors |
| Phone Number: | |
| Email Address: | |
| Campus Address: | |
| Unit/Department/College: | BSOS |
| Constituency (faculty, staff, undergraduate, graduate): | Undergraduate student |
| Description of issue/concern/policy in question: | <p>Currently university policy does not mandate that professors use ELMS (or prior to 2013, the grading system on my.umd.edu). Also, university policy apparently only mandates the reporting of mid-semester grades in 100- and 200- level courses. While this may be the university policy, in my experience as a junior who has taken over a 100 credits, that many professors/instructors refrain from posting mid-semester grades. In fact, even in my freshman and sophomore years when I was taking 100- and 200-level classes, it was common for at least one or two instructors to abstain from reporting mid-semester grades. In addition, professors who refuse to use ELMS to help us keep abreast of our performance in their classes often offer no alternative. Both of these practices decrease clarity in students' understanding of their academic performance and thus may prevent a student from seeking the guidance or aid necessary to improve their grades. As academic success is something students, faculty, and the whole university community should be working towards, I opine that these policies should be remedied.</p> |
| Description of action/changes you would like to see implemented and why: | <p>I ask that professors be mandated to use ELMS and post mid-semester grades. If for some reason a professor cannot use ELMS, he must be required to offer an alternate to his students.</p> <p>Although it is already mandatory (According to the English department) for professors to post mid-semester grades for 100- and 200- level courses, this is not being enforced. In addition, this policy should be amended to all undergraduate courses from 100- to 400-.</p> |
| Suggestions for how your proposal could be put into practice: | <p>The infrastructure for using ELMS is already in place. In addition, most professors have an array of TAs and graders provided by the department to use for just this purpose. For adherence, the individual departments as well as the university should enforce these practices.</p> |
| Additional Information: | <p>The university has already transitioned to reporting final grades online eliminating the costs associated with mailing final grade reports. This is another step along that road.</p> <p>I understand that not all assignments can be graded with immediacy, but professors still have the option of a S or U aside from the traditional A through F grading system.</p> <p>The privilege to evaluate us is well-deserved by these eminent professionals. That said, they must wield this power responsibly because it affects us now and even more after we graduate. And by obfuscating their evaluations of us, they harm our ability to improve ourself.</p> |

Please send your completed form and any supporting documents to senate-admin@umd.edu or University of Maryland Senate Office, 1100 Marie Mount Hall, College Park, MD 20742-7541. Thank you!

Please also find attached my letter to Wallace Loh, the University President on this issue.