

**Modesto Junior College
Academic Senate
Resolution SP06-D
Plus and Minus Grading System (PMG) Pilot Program**

- Proposed by:** Academic Standards Committee
- Whereas:** Research done by Seton Hall University shows that plus/minus grading to be standard practice in the majority of colleges and universities with higher academic standings, including the CSU and UC systems.
- Whereas:** Plus/minus grading allows for more fair, consistent and accurate evaluations of student performance.
- Whereas:** Plus/minus grading supports student motivation and success as students who are highly motivated will perform better and see the rewards reflected in their grades.
- Whereas:** In 1996, the Academic Senate for California Community College proposed that the Board of Governors adopt changes that include the permissive use of plus/minus grading, once the following are established:
- whether plus/minus grading symbols can used in combination with letters grades; and
 - whether plus/minus grading symbols would appear on student transcripts and figured into GPAs.
- Whereas:** Datatel would support a plus/minus grading system that would not be reflected in student GPAs during the two year pilot program.
- Therefore:** **Be it resolved**, that the Academic Senate supports the establishment of a two year pilot program for the purpose of ascertaining the feasibility and desirability of a plus/minus grading system. During the pilot program:
- Faculty participation in the pilot program is strictly voluntary.
 - Students' grade point averages will not reflect any plus/minus marks.
 - The impact of plus/minus grading will come under review after one year and again at the end of the second year.
 - All practices of plus/minus grading will discontinue after two years and will not resume until or if the plus/minus option is officially approved and adopted by the appropriate college and/or district entities.
- First Reading:** N/A
- Final Action:** Resolution withdrawn on February 16, 2006.
- Disposition:** The Senate asked that the Office of College Research and Planning collect data from faculty who volunteer to provide data for evaluation from Spring 2006 through Fall 2006. Results are to be forwarded to the MJC community as a tool for resolution on the issue.