

"Enhanced Grading System" proposal

To the Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division:

We propose two amendments for small but positive modifications to the Instructor-Optional Written Evaluations legislation.

Amendment to 9.2.1. To label the system the "*Enhanced Grading System*," to make it clearer that we still have a system that is a unique, appreciated feature of UCSC. This is good for our instruction and for our public image and relations with alumni, students, and prospective students.

The name change also fosters recognition that even a brief statement about the quality and characteristics of student performance adds information beyond a grade alone. The name change helps to open campus expectations for written evaluations to include a variety of valued forms of enhancement of grading at the discretion of the instructor (not only long individualized narratives). At the same time, instructors who prioritize written evaluations in their instruction during the quarter, to foster student learning, are still able to do so.

Amendment creating 9.2.2. To ensure that the written evaluation report minimally contains a course description. Ideally, this is provided (optionally) by the instructor. If not, it would be imported by the Registrar from prior offerings of the course or from the catalog. A course description provides information about the course, beyond the course's abbreviated title. Among other information, a course description may provide recognition of the kind of work in which the student earned their grade (e.g., 10 essays, 3 multiple choice exams).

For reference, here is a sample course description, from Rogoff's Psychology 110:

An interdisciplinary course on the cultural basis of human development, drawing on theory and research from psychology, anthropology, sociology, and history to examine varying and widespread goals of development and participation of children and their families in cultural practices and institutions. The course involved weekly 2-page essays and three lab reports. 110 students.

<i>Instructor-optional Written Evaluations</i> wording	<i>Proposed Enhanced Grading System</i> wording
<p>9.2 Instructor-optional Written Evaluations.</p> <p>9.2.1 At the end of the term, each instructor teaching a credit-granting course has the option to prepare a written evaluation for any student in his or her class. The narrative evaluation must evaluate the quality and characteristics of the student's performance in the class. <i>(Refer to CEP Advisory Guidelines on Writing Narrative Evaluations.)</i></p>	<p>9.2 Instructor-optional Written Evaluations. <u>Enhanced Grading System.</u></p> <p>9.2.1 Written evaluations. At the end of the term, each instructor teaching a credit-granting course has the option to prepare <u>may supplement the grade with</u> a written evaluation for any student in his or her class. The narrative That evaluation must evaluate report the quality and characteristics of the student's performance in the class. <i>(Refer to CEP Advisory Guidelines on on Writing Narrative Evaluations.)</i></p> <p>9.2.2 Course description. The written evaluation report for every course shall minimally include a course description.</p>

	<p>The course description may be provided by the instructor of the course. If not, the Registrar shall import one from a previous offering of that course or from the course catalog, modifiable by the instructor.</p>
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Respectfully submitted,

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Lecture

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