

# Professors Back Grade Option Plan

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UCSC professors by a narrow margin this morning voted to give students the option of receiving letter grades.

Academic Senate members voted 111-108 to allow students to opt for letter grades in all upper division courses.

Currently, students only have this option in natural science courses. They receive a pass notation and narrative evaluations of their course work in all other classes. UCSC is the only campus in the country to have such a narrative evaluation system.

Recently hired Admissions Dean Richard Moll has said the narrative evaluation system discourages potential students from deciding to attend UCSC.

Professors rejected a similar proposal to initiate letter grades in March 1979 when students vigorously lobbied against the change. Students also lobbied against the letter grade proposal this year, but not successfully.

Many UCSC students have criticized letter grades as corrupting the academic system and say they chose to come to the campus because of the narrative evaluation system.

Moll and others contend the narrative evaluation system hurts students' chances in getting jobs and being admitted to graduate school since potential employers and admission officers balk at reading lengthy transcripts.

There are 335 members in the UCSC Academic Senate.

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