Faculty Survey on A-F Grading and the Transition to Online Teaching

The survey was sent to approximately 550 faculty members on April 9, 2020, at 1300. By noon on April 13, 2020 there were 507 responses.

RESPONSES

Are you confident in your ability to assign grades using our standard A-F (and, as needed, Incomplete) model in a way that fairly differentiates levels of student knowledge and ability?

With 507 responses recorded, 74.2% of the respondents feel confident that they could give meaningful final A-F grades. 11% feel that they could not. For the 14.9% who felt torn, 9% (50 responses) replied yes, I could give “A-F grades but..” That brings the total percentage of faculty who feel confident that they could give meaningful A-F grades to 83.2%.

The most common concern among faculty who had reservations about grades was the disparity in Midshipman resources and situations: especially lack of reliable internet, lack of technology, and family obligations and disruptions. There is a strong feeling that economically privileged students have an unfair advantage. Faculty also expressed that there is consistency in the performance of students at 12-weeks compared to their performance prior to spring break. Faculty also expressed frustration at the challenges they faced in making the transition to online teaching.