

February 11, 2005

## Plus Minus Grading Pilot, Fall 2004 Results

### Methodology

- See Table 1 for grading scale and grades included.
- Only graded classes are included (“500” open entry/exit classes are not included)
- Only grades of A-F are included. Pass / No-Pass courses are not included. Students with W grades are not included in the analysis.

### Participation Fall 2004

- At De Anza, out of 1,697 sections meeting the criteria above, 200 included at least one plus or minus grade (12%), at Foothill the comparable figures were 1,377 total, and 212 or 15% participating.
- The participating sections accounted for 4,705 (12%) grades at De Anza and 4,846 (18%) at Foothill.
- The participating sections included 4,130 students at De Anza and 3,710 at Foothill.
- The ethnic distribution for the Plus Minus Pilot group was consistent with the overall population, with slightly more Asian students in the pilot than in the overall population at both campuses, with a slightly larger spread at Foothill.
- There were 64 grades of “C-“ in 41 sections at De Anza and 104 grades in 48 sections at Foothill. There were 251 “A+” grades at De Anza and 198 at Foothill.
- The survey asking faculty whether they were participating in the study, even if they did not assign a plus or minus grade, was not used because it was clear that most faculty members did not understand what was being asked of them.

### Results in the Fall 2004 Quarter

- For both campuses, faculty assigned more B than A grades under the plus minus system, when compared to the current system (Figure 1), indicating that the Pilot sample may not be reflective of the overall population.
- Slightly more minus grades were given than plus grades (Figures 2 and 3).
- Under the new system about 65% of the students would have seen no change in their term gpa (Figure 4).
- The term gpa (for the grades included) showed more students receiving a lower gpa than stayed the same or increased (Table 2).
- If only grades in plus minus sections are counted, more than 30% of the students with a Student Status of Fulltime and a 4.0 would receive a lower GPA under plus/minus grading (Figure 5 and Figure 6).
- If all grades are counted for students taking at least one plus/minus course, of the students taking 3 or more sections and receiving a 4.0 under the old system, 6/141 (4%) at DA, and 17/151 (11%) FH would have received a lower gpa under plus minus grading.

Table 1

Plus Minus Grade Conversions				
Grade	Old Scale	New Scale	Include In Calc Ind	Success Group
A+	4	4	Y	Success
A	4	4	Y	Success
A-	4	3.7	Y	Success
B+	3	3.3	Y	Success
B	3	3	Y	Success
B-	3	2.7	Y	Success
C+	2	2.3	Y	Success
C	2	2	Y	Success
C-	2	2	Y	Success
D+	1	1.3	Y	NonSuccess
D	1	1	Y	NonSuccess
D-	0.7	0.7	Y	NonSuccess
F	0	0	Y	NonSuccess
W	0	0	N	Withdrew
P	3	3	N	Success
NP	0	0	N	NonSuccess
E	0	0	N	NonSuccess
I	0	0	N	NonSuccess
IP	0	0	N	NonSuccess
N	0	0	N	NonSuccess
NC	0	0	N	NonSuccess
RD	0	0	N	NonSuccess
WE	0	0	N	Withdrew
X	0	0	N	NonSuccess

Figure 1

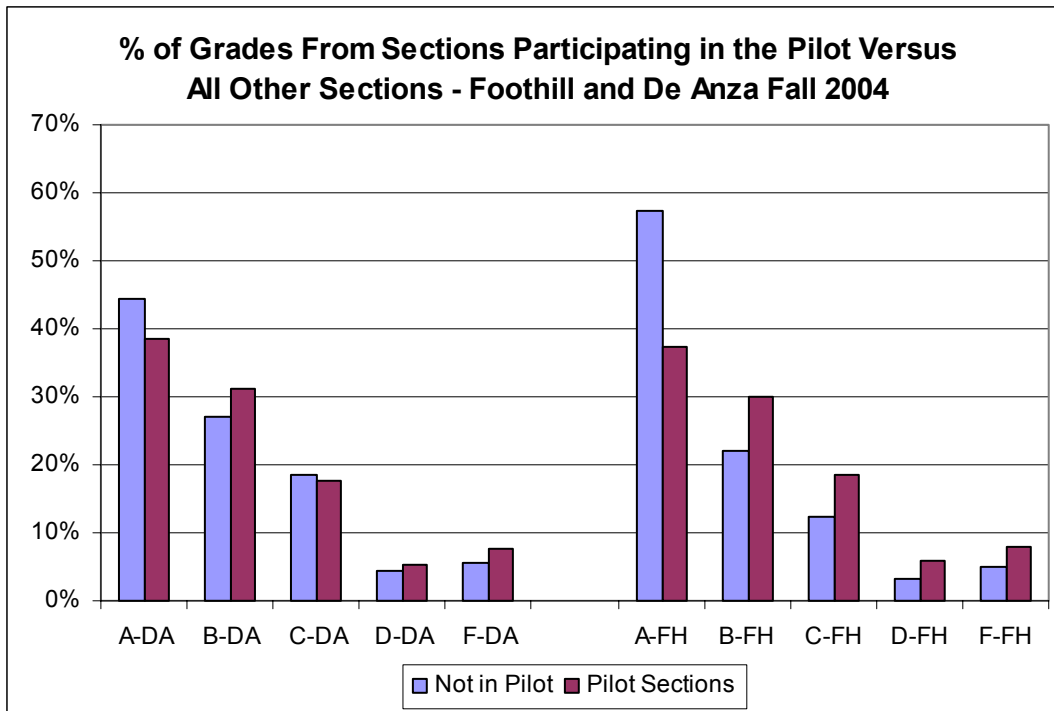


Figure 2

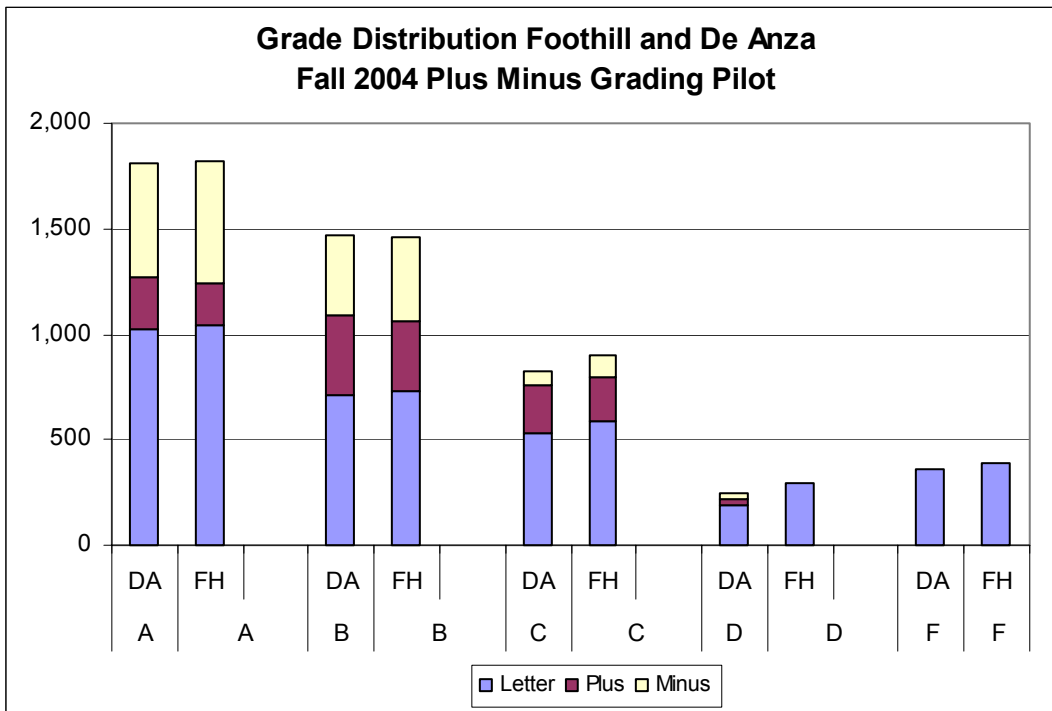


Figure 3

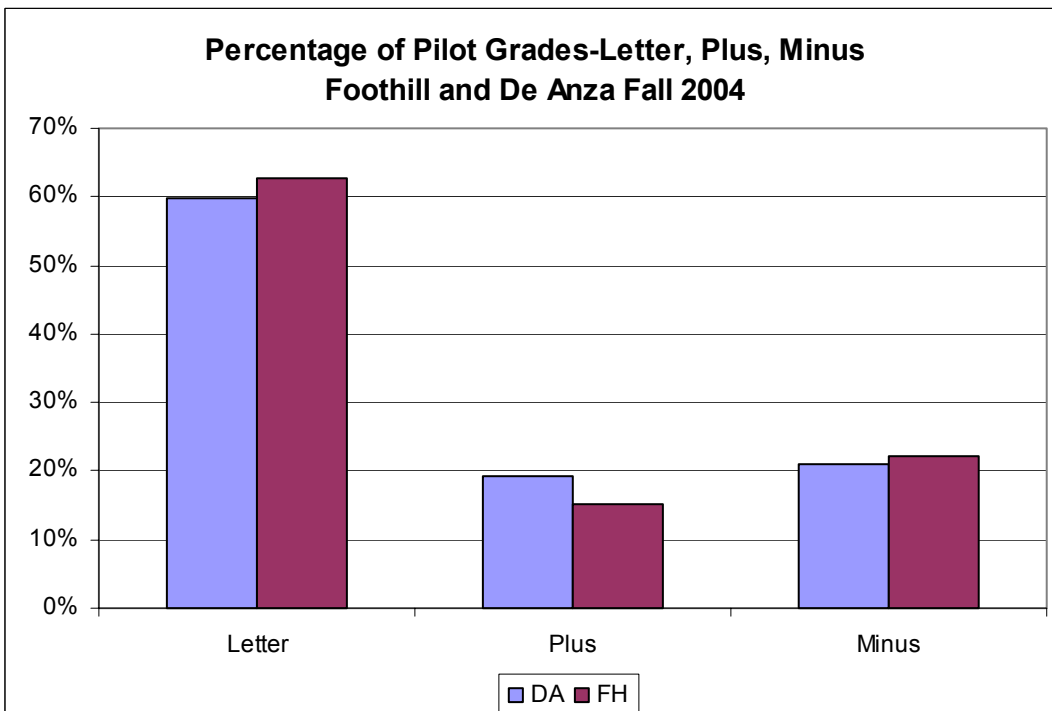


Figure 4

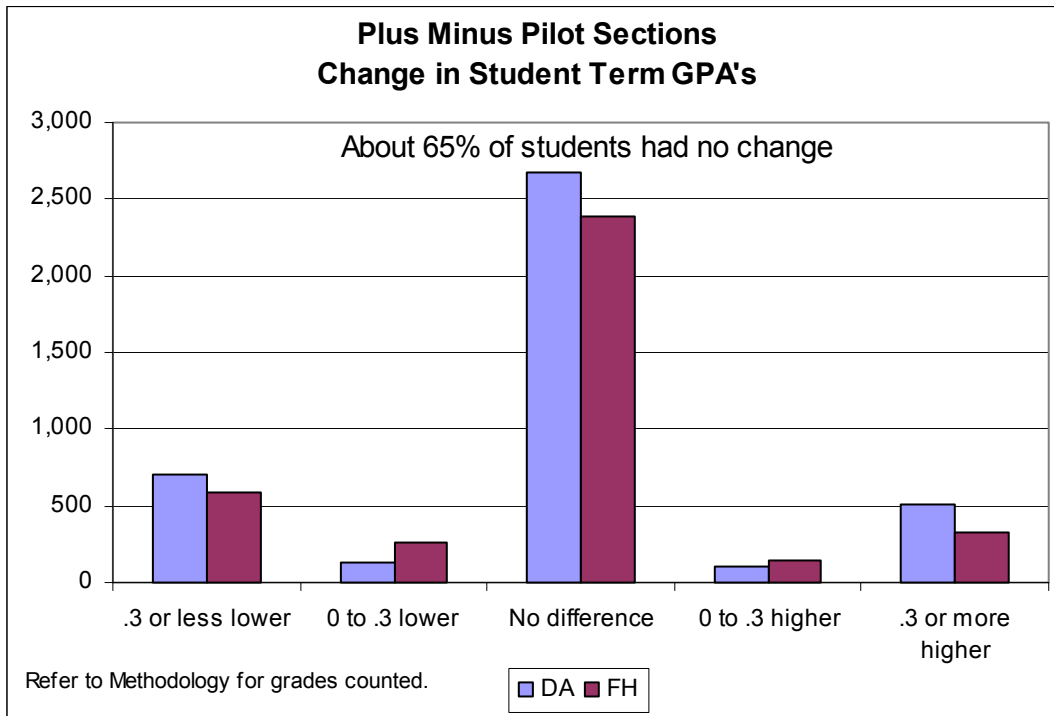


Table 2

**Change in Student Term GPA  
Under Plus Minus Grading  
Fall 2004 Pilot**

Change	De Anza		Foothill	
	Students	Percent	Students	Percent
.3 or less lower	708	17%	586	16%
0 to .3 lower	134	3%	264	7%
No difference	2,680	65%	2,391	64%
0 to .3 higher	100	2%	140	4%
.3 or more higher	<u>508</u>	<u>12%</u>	<u>329</u>	<u>9%</u>
Total Students	4130	100%	3710	100%

Figure 5

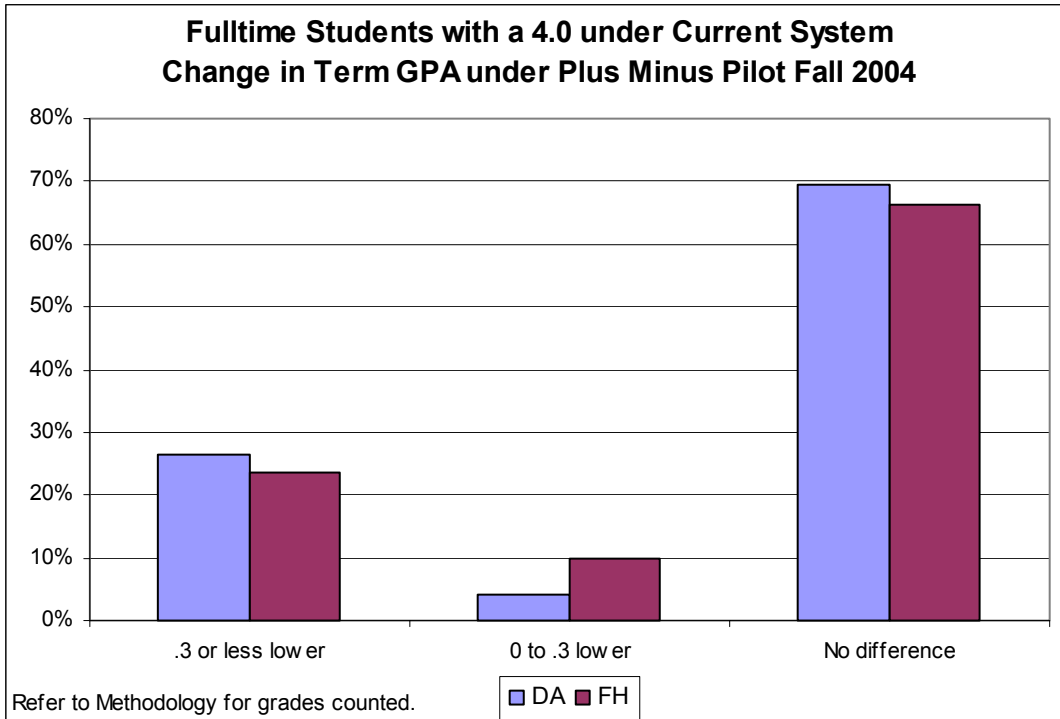


Figure 6

