

**COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE STUDIES
STANFORD UNIVERSITY**

Date: 23 March 2009

To: Karen Cook, Chair
XLI Senate of the Academic Council

From: Philip Lavori, Chair, Committee on Graduate Studies

Re: Recommendation to Approve Changes in the Law School Grading System

There has been considerable discussion in the last year at the Law School about the institution of a new grading system for Law School students. The Registrar's Office has been working with the Law School on the procedures for this change; Law School faculty have already voted to apply their new system this year (Academic Year 2008-09); but any changes in grading systems must be approved by C-GS and the Faculty Senate before they can be implemented.

Similar changes have already been instituted by a number of Stanford's peer institutions, and when Stanford's Law School adopts these changes, it will also serve to make its students more competitive in using the same grading system as other Law Schools.

C-GS had no objections to the changes proposed by the Law School and voted unanimously at its meeting of March 4, 2009, to recommend that the Law School be allowed to go forward with the requested changes to their grading system, and that the Registrar be allowed to implement them, with an effective date of September 1, 2008.

The Committee on Graduate Studies therefore recommends approval to implement the new grading system for the School of Law, effective September 1, 2008, without limit of time.

**COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE STUDIES
RECOMMENDATION FOR
APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO LAW SCHOOL GRADING SYSTEM**

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- I. Memo from C-GS to the XL Faculty Senate, dated 23 March 2009.

- II. Law School Memo Defining Changes to Grading System [text will be delivered later today]