Why the AI?

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We have a problem.

1. Long-term increase in mean grades across the university
2. Substantial and growing systematic inequality in grading patterns by, *inter alia*:
   - Department and
   - Instructor

The problem has consequences.

- http://www.pickaprof.com/?hid=87.138&show_service=prof_grades

The problem has consequences.

- We have no suitable way of comparing students' accomplishment across courses and departments
- Students who are unusually grade-oriented can increase their likelihood of attaining a high GPA and, therefore, university distinction through strategic course selection
- Some students who are learning-oriented face the dilemma of sacrificing the recognition of GPA and university distinction if they select courses for substantive reasons
- Since we *already* rank students as a matter of university policy, fairness and accuracy in that ranking process are crucial

A good solution should. . .

- Recognize the legitimately differing standards and approaches to grading that inhere in the widely varying disciplines UNC offers;
- Underscore faculty's intellectual freedom and integrity in terms of evaluating students' work;
- Recognize high-quality work by students in all classes, including those in which many of the other students are performing high-quality work; and
- Fairly reflect the quality of students' work as distinct from the courses and instructors they select.

Possible solutions

Princeton: Ration the number of each letter grade an instructor may offer in each section (similar to an enforced grading curve)

Swarthmore honors: Separate evaluation from teaching

Indiana: Report context information for each grade on a transcript

Refrain from comparing students' accomplishment across departments and instructors

Or. . .
The Achievement Index

1. Assume that a higher grade in a section is better than a lower grade, *but nothing more*

2. Establish a statistic that represents each student's achievement relative to other students in his/her section

3. Include in this statistic students' classmates' achievement in their other classes

4. Report this statistic alongside traditional GPA, and

5. Use this statistic for applications in which the university must compare accomplishment across department and instructor