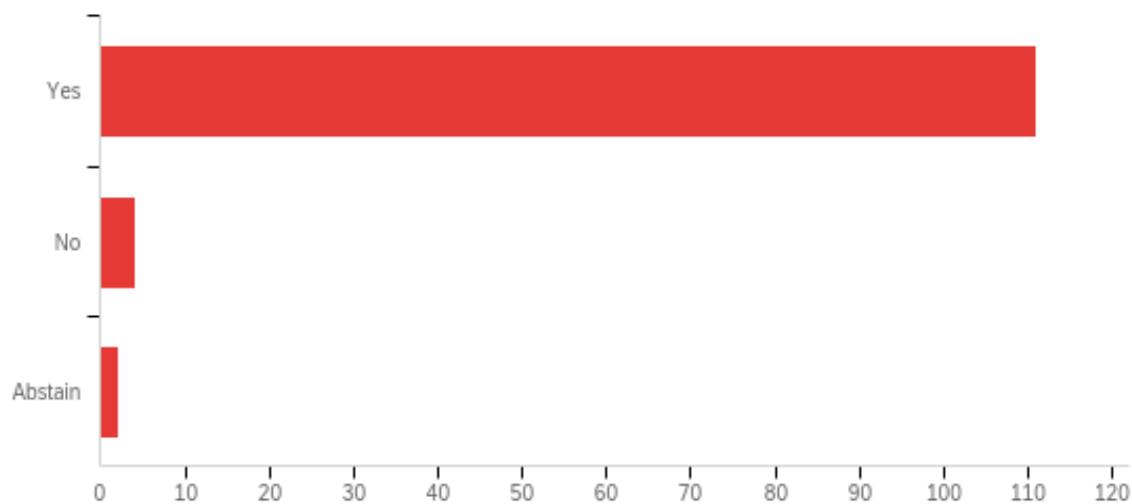


Senate Vote Dec 2023

Q1 - Are you in favor of the proposed resolution to eliminate a transcript notation for a grade of incomplete when the instructor has substituted another grade?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	94.87%	111
2	No	3.42%	4
3	Abstain	1.71%	2
	Total	100%	117

Comments

This is a complex issue. Originally I thought this to be a no-brainer, but I have subsequently learned of the skyrocketing of INC notations, many for students just wanting more time, or in many cases, the use of SDS accommodation. There is understand at the Assoc Dean's Council about this and the need for modernizing forms and record keeping about this. I would rather see the back office stuff get completed and then a clean resolution come forward on the INC issue...once we have the systems in place to equitably implement it. I am not concerned that we are an outlier in the Ivy League...we should do what is best for us given where we are.

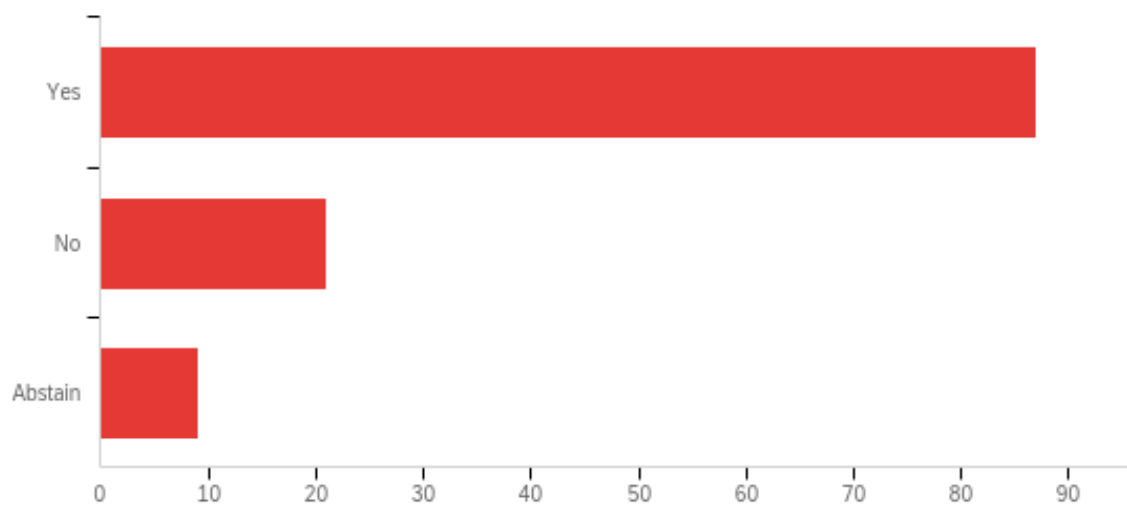
While I voted yes, there is a clear need for cleaning up the provisions and understanding of when an incomplete is an acceptable option. I believe there needs to be a future resolution on clarifying faculty expectations and options for those requirements.

Before this resolution can be approved I think the overarching dilemma around the overuse of INC by faculty and the request by SDS students should be addressed.

I am in favor of the resolution.

We need definitions of "circumstances beyond control" and "passing equity", so that instructors can say "no" to requests that are attempting to game the system. Such requests became much more common (in my experience) after the lenient policies during pandemic.

Q2 - Are you in favor of the proposed resolution to discontinue posting median grades on student transcripts?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	74.36%	87
2	No	17.95%	21
3	Abstain	7.69%	9
	Total	100%	117

Comments

I appreciate the effort to gather and analyze data that shows the impacts on student courses selections

I hope this could be done retroactively at least for the students still at Cornell so that their transcripts look consistent. This was a question during the senate meeting so I hope that can be achieved. Ideally, it would be completely retroactive, but at minimum for the students still taking classes.

I support the resolution.

Here's a comment from an RTE faculty member in CALS, which was echoed by several others: "I do not support the removal of the median grade at this time. The median grade provides a context to the grade inflation issue that is perceived (whether real or not) by the larger community. Yes, this raises the issue of student knowledge/performance as relative to the course goal (for which the median comparison doesn't tell you much) – ie if everyone meets (or exceeds) expectations, they should get an A grade and not be judged on a median grade comparison. But until we have clear grade guidelines, the larger public (including the Cornell community) will suspect the grade and the meaning behind will be diminished."

Support posting them publicly, but this is a battle that I think we lose. Once the median grades do get removed, I hope there is some discussion of the problem of grade inflation among colleges (Ivy League) in general, and Cornell in particular, and how to return to some level of academic honesty with respect to course assessment.

I missed most of the debate but in the last meeting heard good points on both sides, so I can't decide

But, I'd like for us to continue discussions on grade-inflation beyond this decision. It remains a problem.

Perhaps some other assessment of course rigor can be developed? To address the reason this posting was instituted in the first place?

the vote is based on inputs from our faculty: many felt that a medium grade provides useful information and serves as an insulator from grade inflation. removing it from transcript does not necessarily address the issues described in the resolution.

However, I think Mike Thompson brought up valid points in being opposed to this resolution. As someone who has reviewed 10,000+ graduate school applications, removing this calibration does a disservice to students who do relatively well in hard classes that have stringent grading. I feel like we ought to be addressing the real issue here, which is rampant grade inflation, instead of removing the evidence of it from our students' transcripts. This seems like part of a broader Cornell initiative to remove or make unavailable any comparative assessment metrics (e.g., median grades, Dean's lists, class rankings) in the name of reducing student competition and anxiety. Does anyone really think this is going to fundamentally change our students' motivations and competitive behavior? For most of them, this has been the driving reward structure their entire lives.

Posting of median grades is a feature, not a bug, of Cornell's system. They provide transparency into the grading practices of courses/instructors. We should not do away with them until we put in place some better solution, if any, to curb classic grade inflation. Even if posted medians do contribute to compositional grade inflation, their presence is better than their absence.

And on the web too!