Minutes
Policy Council
March 4, 1987

Approval of Graduate Grading Guidelines (document 87.36). Professor
Cunningham introduced the topic by stating that this policy was adopted from
Instructional Systems Technology's current grading guidelines. He stated
that the information contained in document 87.36 constitute guidelines, not
standards.

Professor Gregory asked if these guidelines were a guise for a distribu-
tive grading system. Professor Schwen commented that IST faculty had come to
an agreement that the norms for grading had inflated over time; and by estab-
lishing guidelines, faculty think they are now doing a better job of distribu-
ting grades. Professor Goodman thought the advantage of a public statement
would be to provide the same meaning to all students.

Professor Guskin stated that such guidelines would give the message that
these are acceptable grades for doctoral students, but questioned how to best
deal with the transition period. Professor Molenda said that such guidelines
have not hampered IST students, and the "A" students are still receiving
"A's." Professor Arnove stated that under such guidelines, all students
could reach high standards, and these guidelines should not be confused with
absolute standards. Professor Molenda commented that there has been no
dissent from IST faculty, and the anticipated negative trade-offs have not
emerged.

Due to the lateness of the hour, Dean Mehlinger recommended that a vote
be taken regarding the spirit of the document; and if it passed, specific
wording changes could be presented at the next Policy Council meeting.
Twelve voted in favor of the guidelines, and two were opposed. Professor
Cunningham will present the revised document at the next Policy Council
meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.