

Arch students differ on grading

Letter grades don't appear to be important building blocks for an architect in the minds of many UNL Department of Architecture students and faculty, according to a survey conducted by Ken Wiseman and Jim Schriener, students in the department.

Nearly 30 per cent of 307 persons who responded to a questionnaire said they believe that required architecture classes and other electives should be graded on a pass-fail basis. Forty per cent favored retaining the student's option of a grade or pass/fail, the survey showed.

Only 18.5 per cent of the respondents said they believe classes should be graded solely on letter basis while 12.3 per cent said that the instructor should decide grading procedures.

Nearly 57 per cent of the persons questioned said they believe that grades should be emphasized less for advancement in the department of architecture, upper-level design courses or admission to graduate school and special architectural programs.

Another 40.6 per cent said they favor retention of the present emphasis on grades while 8.8 per cent endorsed increased emphasis.

"The most important thing that the survey shows is that students disagree with the grading system at UNL but are divided on what should take its place," according to Wiseman, a student member of the Department of Architecture Faculty Pass/Fail Committee.

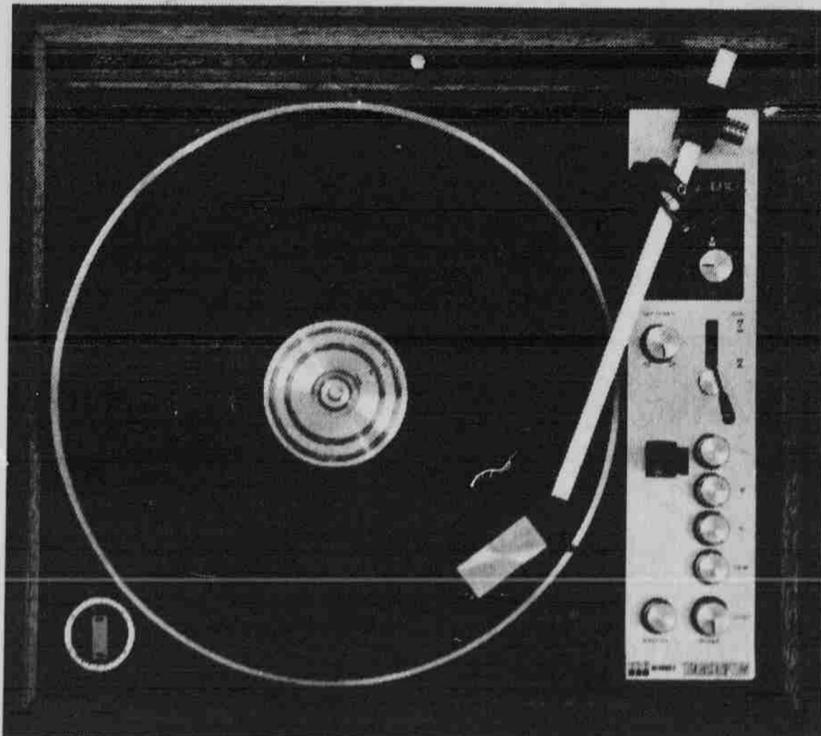
The students with high and low grade point averages favored retention of the present system while people between these extremes favored a change, Wiseman said.

"The survey also indicates that students and faculty believe that the number of electives that a student can take pass/fail should be increased," Wiseman said.

"This whole survey demonstrates one of two things; either students are dissatisfied with the UNL grading system or the Department of Architecture is a den of radicalism," Wiseman said.

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