On the Pascalau Curve

A Brief Look at the Results of Razvan Pascalau's Grading Scale

A number of reports here at USMNEWS.NET have discussed the CoB's learning deficiencies in managerial statistics. One of the most recent showed how the loose grading scale of new visiting instructor of economics, Razvan Pascalau, will contribute to masking learning deficiencies. This report provides an example of how grade point averages differ from a traditional grading scale (i.e., (A=90+, B=80-89, C=70-79, etc.) and Pascalau's grading scales. The example provided here comes from the winning percentages of USM's athletics programs, as found in the report entitled "Aunt Martha's 'Banner Year'." These are shown in Table 1 below, along with the traditional grades and the Pascalau grades.

Table 1
USM Athletics: 2007-08 Performance

Sport	Pct.	*Traditional* *Grade*	*Pascalau Grades* UnAdj	Adj
Volleyball	38.2	F	F	F
Soccer	42.1	F	F	F
Football	53.8	F	D	D
Women's Basketball*	60.6	D	D	C
Men's Basketball	57.6	F	D	D
Softball*	45.2	F	F	D
Baseball*	68.4	D	C	C
Women's Tennis*	70.0	C	C	C
Men's Tennis*	31.3	F	F	F
Women's Golf*	51.0	F	D	D
Men's Golf*	67.9	D	C	C
Grade Point Average		0.455	0.909	1.091

***** Season not yet completed.
Source: southernmiss.cstv.com

The grade point averages in Table 1 above are low. That issue is covered in the "Aunt Martha's . . ." report. This report focuses on GPA comparisons. As the last row in Table 1 above indicates, a movement from the traditional grading scale to either one of the two Pascalau grading scales results in a large improvement in the overall GPA of USM's athletics. Thus, as Pascalau's loose grading scales are applied to statistics (and economics) courses in the CoB, any learning deficiencies in statistics (and economics) will be masked by the grade inflation that results from this application. And, the effects of this inflation will be seen during preparation for the CoB's 2012 AACSB Review.