UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

SUMMARY OF AGENDA

April 6, 1987

- I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
- II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: March 2, 1987
- III. REMARKS BY PRESIDENT TRABANT and/or PROVOST CAMPBELL
- IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - 1. Senate President Callahan

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Recommendation altering the charge to the Committee on Budget Review
- B. Resolution, introduced by Senator Mark Noll, at the March Senate Meeting on revision of the plus/minus system
- C. Resolution, introduced by Senator Annette Burton, at the March Senate Meeting for a trial period of the plus/minus system
- D. Recommendation to change the automatic "F" sanction for academic dishonesty in courses carrying five or more credits

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Recommendation on an extended drop period for first semester freshmen
- B. Recommendation for revision of University policy on excused absences for religious holidays
- C. Recommendation on the adoption of a smoking-area policy
- D. Recommendation for adoption of policy and procedures on research fraud
- E. Introduction of new business.





UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE 301 HULLIHEN HALL NEWARK, DELAWARE 19716

(302) 451-2921

March 23, 1987

TO:

All Faculty Members

FROM:

Thomas F. Merrill, Vice-President Monas T. Muill University Faculty Senate

SUBJECT:

Regular Faculty Senate Meeting, April 6, 1987

In accordance with Section IV, paragraph 6 of the Constitution, the regular meeting of the University Faculty Senate will be held on Monday, April 6, 1987 at 4:00 p.m. in room 110 Memorial Hall.

AGENDA

- I. Adoption of the Agenda.
- Approval of the minutes of the Senate meeting of March 2, 1987.
- III. Remarks by President Trabant and/or Provost Campbell.
- IV. Announcements
 - 1. Senate President Callahan
- V. Old Business
 - Resolution from the Committee on Committees (A. DeHaven, Chairperson) altering the charge of the Committee on Budget Review.
 - RESOLVED, that the charge to the Committee on Budget Review as it appears in Section III, page I-16, paragraph 2, of the Faculty Handbook be changed to read:

This committee shall consist of five members of the faculty, the majority of whom must be tenured. The Committee on Committees shall appoint the members to fiveyear terms, staggering the initial appointments such that one member's term will expire each year. From this group the Committee on Committees shall annually select a

chairperson¹. Two additional members of this committee shall be appointed by the Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

B. Resolution, introduced by Senator Mark Noll (Graduate Student) at the March Senate meeting, on revision of the plus/minus system.

RESOLVED, the current plus/minus grading system should be revised to a plus system only.

Grading under the proposed system would be as follows:

Letter Grade	Quality Points		
Α	4.0		
B+	3.5		
В	3.0		
C+	2.5		
C	2.0		
D+	1.5		
D	1.0		
F	0.0		

This system will allow faculty the greater latitude in grading which is desired while eliminating most of the serious conflicts. An average grade of 2.0 would remain as the minimum required for graduation at the undergraduate level and 3.0 at the graduate level.

It is the intention of this system to equitably distribute grades while eliminating grade inflation. Using the example cited on page 37 of the Report of the President's Commission on Undergraduate Education, Final Report of the Subcommittee on the Undergraduate Academic Program, (Attachment 1) those students with averages of 77, 78, 79 will, under the proposed system, receive a grade of C+ whereas previously they may equally have received a grade of C or B. This rewards them for somewhat better than average performance, yet doesn't inflate their grade and preserves the integrity of the system.

C. Resolution, introduced by Senator Annette Burton (Undergraduate Student), for a trial period of the plus/minus system.

WHEREAS: The University will be implementing a new grading system in the near future, be it

RESOLVED: That this new grading system be implemented for a trial period of four years. At the end of the four years, this system will be evaluated to determine its effects on the University. At this time the system will either be modified, continued or eliminated.

Formerly "chair."

D. Recommendation from the Committee on Student Life (J. Beer, Chairperson) to change the automatic "F" sanction for academic dishonesty in courses carrying five or more credits. [This recommendation was originally on the March agenda, discussed and returned to committee.]

WHEREAS, the current minimum mandatory sanctions for academic dishonesty include, "A guilty finding for academic dishonesty will result in the student receiving an 'F' in the course in which the offense occurred"; and

WHEREAS, this represents a particular inequity when courses carrying five or more credits are involved; and

WHEREAS, most of these large credit courses are sequential in nature so that an "F" can substantially retard a student's progress toward graduation, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the sanction for academic dishonesty in any course carrying five or more credits be changed to allow the judicial hearing officer to impose a lesser sanction that might not automatically include an "F" for the entire course.

Any sanction less than an "F" in the course must be justified in writing to the Council on Student Judicial Affairs. The justification would become part of a cumulating record of such exceptions to be used as precedents for rulings in analogous cases which may arise in the future.

All other sanctions (listed in the Student Guide to Policies, page 9, paragraphs K. 2. through K. 6.) would apply in these cases.

Under this resolution the <u>Student Guide</u> to <u>Policies</u> section on "Academic Dishonesty Sanctions" (K. 1., page 9) would read:

"A guilty finding for academic dishonesty will result in the student receiving an "F" in the course in which the offense occurred. In courses carrying five or more credits the judicial hearing officer may impose a lesser sanction that might not automatically include an "F" for the entire course."

VI. New Business

A. Recommendation from the Committee on Undergraduate Studies (C. Marler, Chairperson) on an extended drop period for first semester freshmen.

WHEREAS: Freshmen do not receive comprehensive grades until the semester's seventh week; and

WHEREAS: Freshmen often have not learned quickly to match their abilities and/or interests with the multiple possibilities offered by a major university; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That first semester freshmen shall be allowed to drop courses without academic penalty for the first eight weeks of the semester. (Any changes in registration after the eighth week will demand the approval of the dean;) further be it

RESOLVED: That this policy shall go into effect as of September 1, 1987.

B. Recommendation from the Committee on Student Life (J. Beer, Chairperson) for revision of the University policy on excused absences for religious holidays. (A copy of the present policy is at Attachment 2.)

WHEREAS, faculty are told dates of certain excused religious absences in all University Calendars and also in an annual memorandum from the Provost, and therefore do not need to be individually informed of these holidays and dates by their students, and

WHEREAS, incoming freshmen cannot be practically informed in a timely manner of the current requirement for written notification, particularly for religious holidays coming early in the school year, and

whereas, commuters and other students who are unaffiliated with campus religious organizations do not receive guidance on this matter from those organizations, and accordingly may not know of the current absence policy, therefore

that the policy on students informing faculty of absences for religious holidays (Student Guide to Policies, "Student Class Attendance," page 30) shall be changed to create separate rules for (a) religious holidays listed in University Calendars [religious holidays currently listed on University calendars are Rosh Hashona, Yom Kippur, Good Friday, and Passover] and (b), (c), (d) for other excused absences. The proposal would alter the University policy on "Student Class Attendance" as follows: [Changes are underlined.]

- Absence on religious holidays listed in University calendars is recognized as an excused absence.

 Nevertheless, students are urged to remind the instructor of their intention to be absent on a particular upcoming holiday.
- b. Absences on religious holidays not listed in University calendars, as well as absences due to athletic participation or other extracurricular activities in

which students are official representatives of the University, shall be recognized as excused absences when the student informs the instructor in writing during the first two weeks of the semester of these planned absences for the semester. Absences due to similar events which could not have been anticipated earlier in the semester will be recognized as excused absences upon advance notification of the instructor by an appropriate faculty adviser or athletic coach.

- c. Absences due to illness requiring medical attention and serious illness or death within a student's family shall also be recognized as excused absences. The student shall see that the instructor is notified as soon as possible. The instructor may require the student to present evidence such as a note from a doctor, to substantiate his or her excuse.
- d. Students are not to be penalized if absent from an examination, lecture, laboratory, or other activity because of an excused absence. However, students are fully responsible for all material presented during their absence and faculty are encouraged to provide opportunities, when feasible, for students to make up examinations and other work missed because of an excused absence.
- C. Recommendation from the Committee on Physical Planning and Utilization (K. Lomax, Chairperson) for a University smoking-area policy. (The policy is at attachment 3.)
 - WHEREAS, there is increasing awareness and concern about the detrimental impact of smoke to the health of non-smokers; and
 - WHEREAS, a total ban on smoking in University facilities is not presently acceptable; be it
 - RESOLVED, that a smoking-area policy be implemented to specify the locations, areas, and identification procedures for such smoking areas. Non-smoking and smoking areas both are to have appropriate signs.
- D. Recommendation from the Committee on Research (P. Weil, Chairperson) for an addition to the <u>Faculty Handbook</u> on adoption of policy and procedures on research fraud.
 - WHEREAS, all research institutions receiving funding for research as designated by the Federal Health Extension Act of 1985 must prepare and follow written policies and procedures in conformity with guidelines promulgated pursuant to that Act by the National Institutes of Health; and

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate Research Committee, working in collaboration with the University Office of Research and Patents, has developed written policies and inquiry procedures to ensure due process prior to a formal investigation of alleged research fraud; and

whereas, the Research Committee has further modified those policies and procedures as a result of testimony presented by members of the University community in an open hearing held Thursday, March 12, 1987, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate approve the policy and procedures on research fraud (see Attachment 4) for inclusion in Section II, page II-8 of the University Faculty Handbook. Such inclusion is subject to further approval by the University Board of Trustees.

E. Such items as may come before the Senate. (No motion introduced at this time may be acted upon until the next meeting of the Senate.)

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Attachments: Committee Activities Report

- 1. Final Report of the Subcommittee on the Undergraduate Academic Program, page 37
- 2. Student Guide to Policies, "Student Class Attendance", page 30
- 3. Smoking Policy
- 4. Policy and procedures on Research Fraud

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES REPORT

ACADEMIC COMPLAINTS, UNIVERSITY REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR (William Nichol)

No items currently before the committee.

BEVERAGE ALCOHOL, COMMITTEE TO REGULATE THE USE OF (James Fischer)

No items currently before the committee.

BUDGET REVIEW, COMMITTEE ON (Araya Debessay)

No items currently before the committee.

COMMITTEES, COMMITTEE ON (Anna De Haven)

- 1. Staffing Senate committees for 1987-88.
- 2. Reviewing committee charges.

COMPUTER COMMITTEE (James Damewood)

No items currently before the committee.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PUBLIC EVENTS, COMMITTEE ON (Ronald Vukelich)

- 1. Approving funding requests.
- 2. Reallocating funds within parent and subcommittees.
- 3. Reviewing the composition and role of the Committee.

EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION AND PLANNING, COMMITTEE ON (Gary Laverty)

No items currently before the committee.

FACULTY WELFARE AND PRIVILEGES, COMMITTEE ON (Ludwig Mosberg)

- 1. Reviewing policy and procedures for faculty appointment.
- 2. Discussing faculty code of conduct.

PERFORMING ARTS, SUBCOMMITTEE ON (Peter Hill)

Approving requests for funding.

RESEARCH, COMMITTEE ON (Peter Weil)

Discussing research fraud.

RETIRING, RETIRED AND EMERITI FACULTY, SUBCOMMITTEE ON (Elizabeth Bohning)

Reviewing results of retired faculty survey. Meeting with administrators regarding various suggestions submitted by those polled.

RULES, COMMITTEE ON (Carol Vukelich)

No items currently before the Committee.

STUDENT AND FACULTY HONORS, COMMITTEE ON (Christine Kydd)

Evaluating nominees for the Excellence in Teaching awards.

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND STANDING, COMMITTEE ON (Anne Clark)

Discussing report of the President's Commission on Undergraduate Education.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES, COMMITTEE ON (Charles Marler)

- 1. Reviewing curriculum proposals.
- 2. Discussing multicultural course requirement.
- 3. Discussing cross-dual listing of courses.
- 4. Discussing field experience program.
- 5. Discussing President's Commission on Undergraduate Education report.

VISITING SCHOLARS AND SPEAKERS, SUBCOMMITTEE ON (Frank Dilley)

Again receiving grant applications.

/wc

The conclusions and the recommendations of the subcommittee are these:

A. The subcommittee believes that at least one cause of grade inflation, stretching across the entire University, may be dealt with—at least on a trial basis—simply and easily.

This cause concerns both the giver and the receiver of grades, and it appears to begin at the C level, at what is ordinarily defined as and intended to be "average." Both the instructor and the student correctly perceive a great difference in quality between an average of 70, 71, 72, and one of 77, 78, 79. Accordingly, the instructor is likely, we believe, to make clear this distinction—as the student thinks he should—by giving the high C student a B. In turn, if he gives the student with, say, 78 a B, the instructor considers it fair and proper to make 88 an A, 68 a C, even 58 a D. Thus, inability to draw appropriate distinctions at the middle grade distorts the entire range of grading.

A change in the grading system itself seems worth trying. Accordingly, the subcommittee approves the action of the University Senate in 1985, changing the present grading system in order to permit greater flexibility and finer distinctions.

The subcommittee further proposes that this plan be established for four years, a college generation. At the end of that period, it should be examined with appropriate statistical support and, on the basis of that examination, be continued, modified, or abandoned.

Along with a change in the grading system, the subcommittee also recommends tightening the restrictions on the Pass/Fail grade. It believes that general use of P/F encourages students to take courses in which they do not expect or intend to do the required amount of work or those which they do not wish to affect their grade-point-average



Student Class Attendance

By action of the University faculty, the responsibility for defining attendance expectations is left to the individual faculty member, subject to the guidelines given below. Thus it is of great importance that early in each course the instructor make attendance expectations clear to each student.

It is the policy of the University of Delaware not to cancel classes on religious holidays. However, students and faculty are encouraged to exercise their own judgment pertaining to their attendance on these days. In addition, faculty are encouraged not to schedule examinations or require the submission of special assignments on the following days, the evenings before as well as the first two days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in the fall term. Good Friday and the evenings before and the first two days of Passover in the spring semester. To facilitate planning for the potentially large number of absences on these days the University shall include the dates of these holidays in the academic calendar. Adjacent to each of these dates the academic calendar will include a reminder to consult the University policy on excused absences.

Absences on religious holidays, as well as absences due to athletic participation or other extracurricular activities in which students are official representatives of the University, shall be recognized as excused absences when the student informs the instructor in writing during the first two weeks of the semester of these planned absences for the semester. Absences due to similar events which could not have been anticipated earlier in the semester will be recognized as excused absences upon advance notification of the instructor by an appropriate faculty adviser or athletic coach.

b. Absences due to illness requiring medical attention and serious illness or death within a student's family shall also be recognized as excused absences. The student shall see that the instructor is notified as soon as possible. The instructor may require the student to present evidence such as a note from a doctor, to substantiate his or her excuse.

c. Students are not to be penalized if absent from an examination, lecture, laboratory, or other activity because of an excused absence. However, students are fully responsible for all material presented during their absence and faculty are encouraged to provide opportunities, when feasible for students to make up examinations and other work missed because of an excused absence.



Intramural and Club Sports Activities

The University provides students with a variety of intramural and club sports activities. All students should recognize that participation in these activities is voluntary and at their own risk.

Any sport activity carries with it the potential for injury. If you have a medical condition that indicates participation in these activities might be hazardous to your health, please contact your physician for advice before participating.

Even if you have not had prior medical problems, it would be prudent to contact a physician for a physical examination before any strenuous activity. If you have any questions concerning the risks involved in intramural and club sports, please contact the Dean of Students Office.

SMOKING POLICY

I. Background and Purpose

Medical evidence clearly shows that smoking is harmful to the health of smokers. It is also an irritant to many nonsmokers and can worsen allergy conditions. In sufficient concentrations, secondhand smoke may be harmful to those with chronic heart or lung disease. In addition, there is evidence that long-term exposure to secondhand smoke may seriously threaten the health of nonsmokers.

II. Definition

Smoking includes the inhaling, exhaling and carrying of any lighted cigarettes, cigars, or pipes.

III. Policy

The University of Delaware will consider the needs and concerns of smokers, and nonsmokers alike, in providing a healthful environment for all employees, students, faculty, and guests. This smoking policy will take effect after approval by the University Faculty Senate and the Board of Trustees. All University of Delaware employees, students, faculty, and guests will be expected to comply.

This policy does not apply to University residence hall buildings. Policies regarding smoking in residence buildings will be addressed in the Residence Hall Handbook.

A. Smoking is prohibited in the following areas:

1. Academic Areas

Classrooms, lecture halls, seminar rooms, laboratory and computing facilities.

2. General Areas

Conference rooms, auditoriums, exhibition areas, indoor athletic facilities, theatres, pavilions and reception areas.

Special Function Areas

Health facilities, library stacks, elevators, escalators, stairwells, restrooms, customer service areas, kitchens and food service areas, shops, storage rooms, and warehouses.

4. All vehicle storage areas, common garages, and University vehicles unless assigned only to smokers.

- 5. All motor pool vehicles.
- B. Provisions for smoking areas:
 - Large open spaces such as dining rooms and lounges that have adequate ventilation may have up to one-third of the area designated for smoking.
 - 2. Libraries may designate specific areas or rooms for smoking if ventilation is adequate and there is no fire hazard.
 - 3. Unit heads or their designees may establish as "Smoking Permitted Areas" rooms that have closed doors and floor-to-ceiling partitions as long as ventilation is adequate and nonsmokers in adjacent areas are not exposed to secondhand or side-stream smoke.
 - 4. Individuals' offices may be designated as smoking areas, as long as the provisions of B-3 are met.
 - 5. The Directors of the Student Center, Food Service, and Conferences and Centers may, at their discretion, allow smoking by groups making use of large group function areas or other rooms in these buildings, if they determine that it is appropriate to the nature of the scheduled event.
 - 6. Smoking is permitted in corridors, hallways and lobbies unless "No Smoking" signs are posted.

IV. Implementation

- A. Plant Operations will be responsible for acquiring, posting, and maintaining "No Smoking" signs in designated nonsmoking areas and "Smoking Permitted" signs in designated areas.
- B. Unit heads or their designees are responsible for the following actions within their jurisdiction:
 - Distribution of copies of this policy to employees, faculty, and/or students.
 - 2. Designation of smoking and nonsmoking areas.
 - 3. Enforcement of this policy.

V. Enforcement

Employees, faculty, and students who violate this policy on smoking will be subject to the same disciplinary actions that accompany infractions of other University policies. UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE Policy Manual

Date March 19, 1987 Page 1 of 4

Subject

RESEARCH FRAUD

I. PURPOSE

To outline the guidelines for inquiry into cases of suspected research fraud before initiation of a formal investigation.

II. POLICY

The University, the State, suppliers of grant accounts, clients of consultation services, and the public all have the right to expect and demand unbiased and factual information from University professional researchers. In the long run, University personnel benefit individually and collectively from the maintenance of high ethical standards. Any intentional distortion of research data or intentional distortion of information or conclusions derived from research data constitutes research fraud and is prohibited by University policy.

An atmosphere of intellectual honesty enhances the research process and need not inhibit productivity and creativity. Establishing and maintaining such an atmosphere is a responsibility that must be accepted by all University personnel.

Fortunately, research fraud occurs very rarely. However, the potentially severe consequences to the academic reputation and credibility of the University make it the responsibility of all to report promptly and confidentially indications of research fraud.

Suspicion of research fraud and awareness of the investigation of suspected research fraud must be limited to only those with a genuine need to know. If the suspicion of research fraud proves unfounded, it is the responsibility of all privy to it to obliterate the suspicion from memory.

Each dean, chairperson, division head, and principal investigator has a special responsibility for creating and strengthening an atmosphere in which research fraud is abhorrent. This includes indoctrinating in faculty, staff, and students the highest standards of professional and intellectual ethics.

The "Health Research Extension Act of 1985" requires that applicants for Public Health Service (PHS) research funds file assurances that (1) they have developed their own policies and procedures for dealing with possible research fraud and (2) they will inform PHS of the initiation of a formal misconduct investigation. As a means of implementing the 1985 law, PHS has prepared a statement of "Awardee Responsibilities" to be published for comment. It is the policy of the University of Delaware to abide by the

proposed Awardee Responsibilities until they are revised or adopted. It is the policy of the University of Delaware to extend these PHS responsibility requirements to all research.

The University has the ethical responsibility to prevent research fraud and the legal responsibility to report and investigate research fraud that does occur. The University administration can discharge these responsibilities only with the cooperation of the faculty, staff, and students in following the procedures outlined below. It is the duty of all such personnel to report promptly and confidentially any appearances of research fraud. In rare cases where one level in this reporting chain appears to be stalling or covering up the allegation of fraud, it may be necessary to proceed to a higher level. It is prudent for those who are aware of an alleged case of research fraud to take such a step, since any subsequent investigation of a significant fraud case is likely to uncover those who knew about the fraud and failed in their duty to report it. This policy does not conflict with the "Student Code of Conduct" in the Student Guide to Policies.

A. Examples of Research Fraud

Research fraud can be divided into three principal categories: falsification of data or documents, plagiarism, and abuse of confidentiality. The following are only examples of areas within which fraud may occur and should not be treated as legal definitions of fraud.

1. Falsification of data or documents
Falsification of documents
Fabrication of data
Gross intentional biasing of data interpretation
Blatantly biased data selection
Undue extrapolation of data
Intellectual dishonesty in presentations of research results

2. Plagiarism

Unjustified authorship claims
Omission of authorship credits within the context of plagiarism
Intentional distortion of citations
Second publication of an entire document presented as new material
Incorrect identification of inventorship

3. Abuse of confidentiality
Improper use of research proposal review material
Adoption of proprietary information

B. Federal Requirements

The proposed federal requirements of assurance of a University policy and assurance of prompt reporting of a formal investigation of misconduct apply only to A1, "Falsification of data or documents."

The abuses of A2, "Plagiarism," and A3, "Abuse of confidentiality," are informally deplored by the funding agencies of the U.S. government but are not a part of the proposed federal regulations.

C. Examples of Activities Potentially Affected by Research Fraud

Preparing research proposals
Making scholarly presentations
Publishing research results and scholarly findings
Reporting results from research grants
Preparing and presenting theses
Preparing patent applications
Giving expert testimony or advice on regulatory matters
Giving expert testimony in court cases
Advising consultation clients

D. Consequences

Cases in which research fraud has been established by a formal investigation may vary widely in both the degree of flagrancy of the fraudulent actions and in the degree of potential harm to individuals, the University, and society. Therefore, each case will be treated on an ad hoc basis. However, it should be noted that some cases may fall into the categories of gross irresponsibility or moral turpitude. Such cases could be cause for termination under III-N-1 of the University of Delaware Faculty Handbook.

III. PROCEDURES

Resolution of research fraud concerns should take place informally, confidentially, and at the lowest possible level. It is desirable whenever feasible that the perceiver of possible research fraud should first point out quietly and tactfully to the alleged perpetrator the possibilities for the appearance of research fraud in a data correlation, conclusion presentation, thesis, scholarly paper, etc. If the perceived situation is corrected, all benefit. If the appearance or suspicion of research fraud is not promptly eliminated, the individual who perceives possible fraud should take the next procedural step on a confidential basis.

- 1. If the appearance of research fraud persists, the perceiver will meet privately and confidentially with the department chair, if there is one, or with the first level of supervision. The chair will decide on the course of further consideration. The chair may elect to bring the problem to the attention of the alleged perpetrator of the fraud, collect further information, or determine that no fraud has occurred. If the perception of fraud proves to be without basis or if no fraud is found, the chair will so inform the original perceiver of the alleged fraud.
- 2. If the appearance of fraud persists in the judgment of the chair, the chair will inform the alleged perpetrator and refer the matter to the

dean. The dean will appoint a small committee, including an independent expert, and inform the chair, the alleged perpetrator, and the perceiver of fraud if no fraud is found.

- If the dean finds merit in the allegations of potential or actual fraud, he or she will advise the alleged perpetrator of the findings.
- 4. If the perception of potential fraud is not promptly eliminated to the satisfaction of the dean and the alleged perpetrator so informed, the dean will take the matter to the Provost to determine if the charges justify investigation.
- 5. If the dean determines an investigation is justified the alleged perpetrator will be notified first. The financial supporters of the research, if any, will then be notified promptly and a formal investigation begun. If federal support is involved, special attention will be given to compliance with federal regulations requiring such notification.

LTF/leh 03/19/87