

MINUTES
Faculty Meeting
Friday, May 3, 3:45 p.m.
132 AGLS

Trinidad/Barbados Trip – Student Incident

Lindner

Dr. Lindner reported that a student became ill on the recent trip to Trinidad/Barbados. CISI was contacted immediately but was of no help. There were six faculty on site. It was determined that the student would be sent home immediately for medical assistance.

Process Explanation

Elliot

Dr. Elliot will be out of the country from June 25th to July 24th with travel to include Rome and Namibia. He will be available by email within a 24 hour window. Contact any of the three associate department heads or Debbie if you need assistance.

Grade Comparison Study

Elliot

Dr. Elliot distributed a document (**Attachment A**) concerning examination of grade distributions which was conducted by Junyi Chen and Christine Muhlbach. It is for your information only. Dr. Murphy and Rutherford said that it could be an agenda item at future meetings. Dr. Rosson shared the report with Dr. Elliot.

SAEF

Rutherford

Previously funds have been distributed by the SA office. This year it has gone back to the college for distribution. What is the most equitable way to divide funds

Option 1: Equally divide the funds among all faculty who participate regardless of length of program or number of students.

Option 2: Determine total number of faculty days spent traveling (95 based on 2013 programs), divide ALEC SAEF dollars by total faculty days (\$277.37/day), multiply daily rate by number of days to determine individual faculty funding (15 days x \$277 = \$3,410.53)

Option 3: Distribute to faculty at \$80/credit hour generated (# students x credits x \$80)

Summer Teaching

Rutherford/Murphy

We did receive summer teaching funds. Most courses are full at this time. Working with Kenny as far as distribution. Undergraduate classes will receive monies first, then graduate. Right now we are \$17,000 under funded.

P&T Update

Wingenbach/Larke

Copy of the newly revised/edited policy for tenure and promotion was distributed. Dr. Wingenbach asked for patience with requests for additional information on mid-term packets. The next meeting will be scheduled next week.

May 13 is the deadline for complete dossiers of candidates for promotion and tenure to the co-chairs and department head.

Other

Dr. Elliot reminded faculty that there were 20 Presidential hires – the College got 8 of those special hires. Democracy was one of them. It appears that Dr. Belay Begashaw will be offered the position of Director of the Borlaug Institute under the democracy category. We have been given the first right of refusal concerning his being awarded tenure. He will get tenure in his letter of offer – the question is just what department he will be linked to. After ballots were tallied, it was announced that we would notify Dr. Hussey that we would be prepared to have his tenure housed with ALEC. Several asked that Dr. Elliot follow up with Dr. Hussey concerning our financial responsibility in the case of this position changing. Dr. Elliot agreed to follow up with Dr. Hussey.

Several mentioned past concerns over working relationship with Borlaug.

Dr. Elliot just attended a follow up of the Hussey review with the Dean of Faculties and Provost. Our college had the largest turnout of responses of any of the deans. 2/3's recommended that he stay.

90% of negative comments were 100% out of Hussey's control. It was noted that one area to work on was communication.

Travel Request Form Deadlines

Domestic (30 days prior to trip): e.g., travel June 1, 2013 due by May 1, 2013
International (60 days prior to trip): e.g., travel July 1, 2013 due by May 1, 2013

Upcoming Events

AIAEE, May 19-22, Ft. Worth, TX
AAAE, May 20-24, Columbus, OH
AIARD, June 2-4, Washington, DC
ACE/NETC, June 11-14, Indianapolis, IN
NACTA, June 25-29, Blacksburg, VA
ALE, July 7-10, New Orleans, LA

Future Departmental Meetings

Summer as Needed
August 22, 8:30 am (breakfast provided)

Is an **A** easy if we select the "right" instructors?

Examination of Grade Distributions



Junyi Chen¹, Christine Muhlbach²

¹Department of Agricultural Economics,

²Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communication

Introduction

- Public and academic perception is grade inflation is rampant. Such statements, generally, are made with little or no statistical evidence. Over the past three decades, have TAMU students received higher grades? This is one of several questions this research addresses.

Objective

Our objectives are to examine if:

- The widely perceived grade inflation phenomenon exists in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at TAMU; and
- Is there a significant statistical relationship between a class grade point ratio (GPR) and professional rank, gender of the instructors, and class size (number of students in the class).

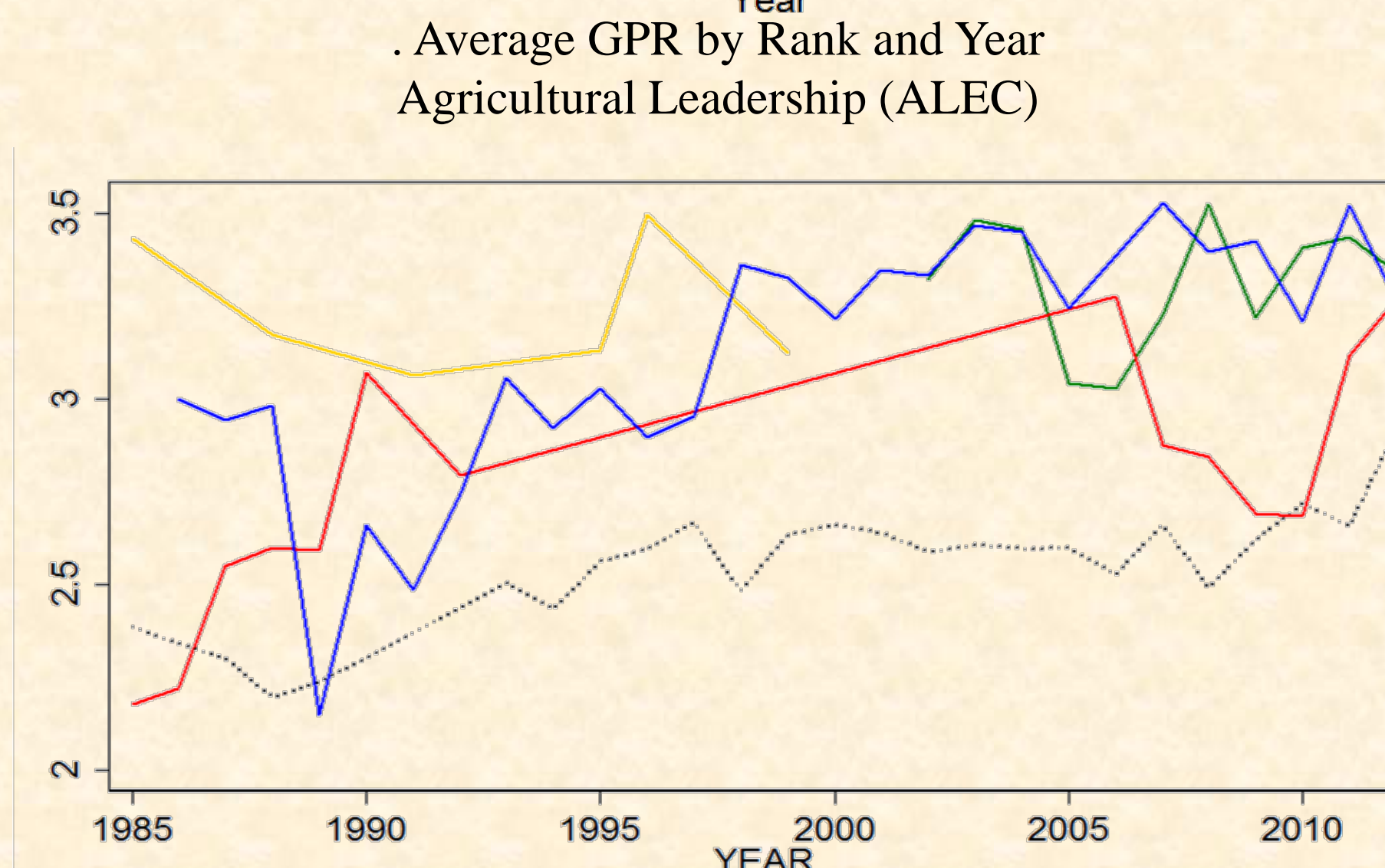
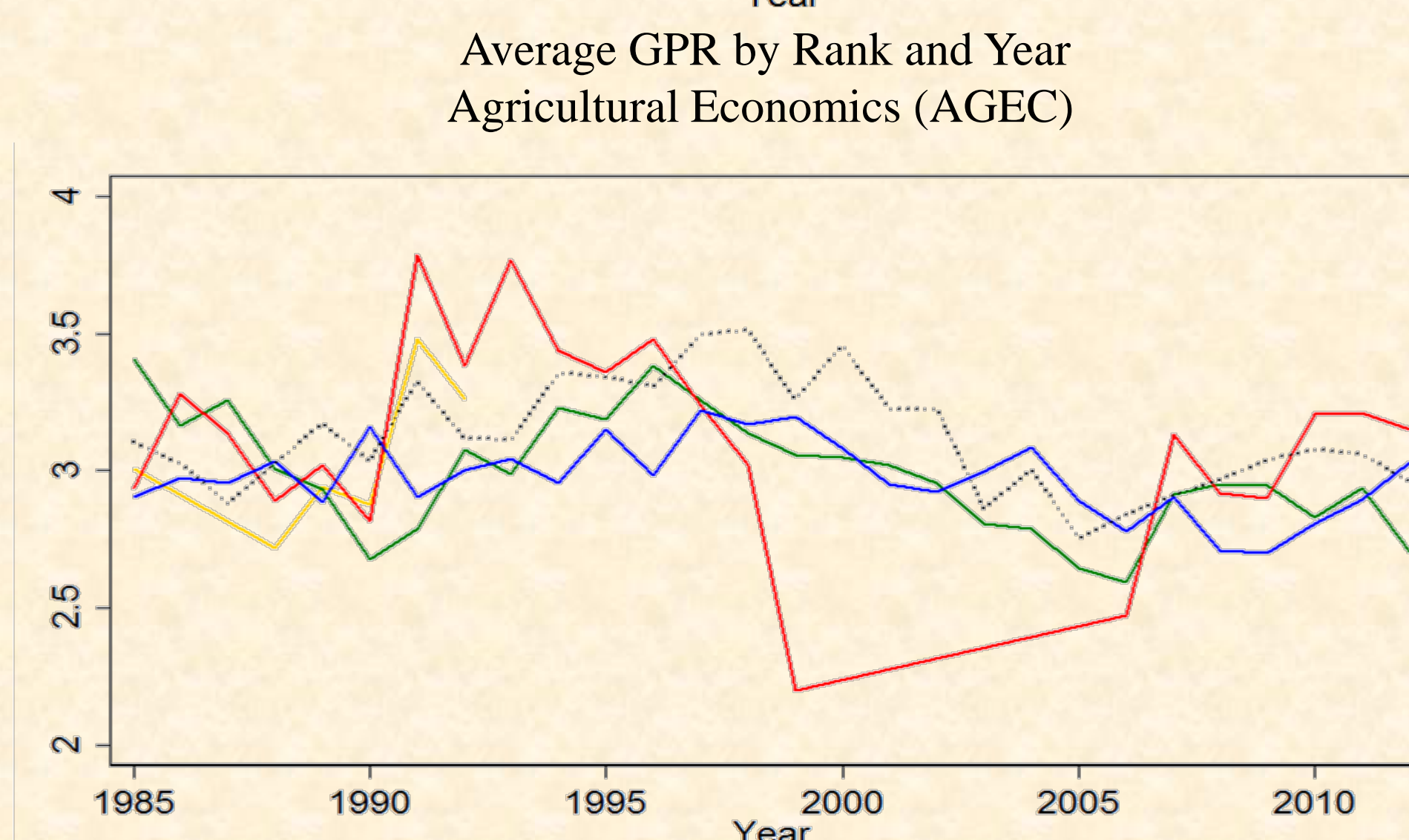
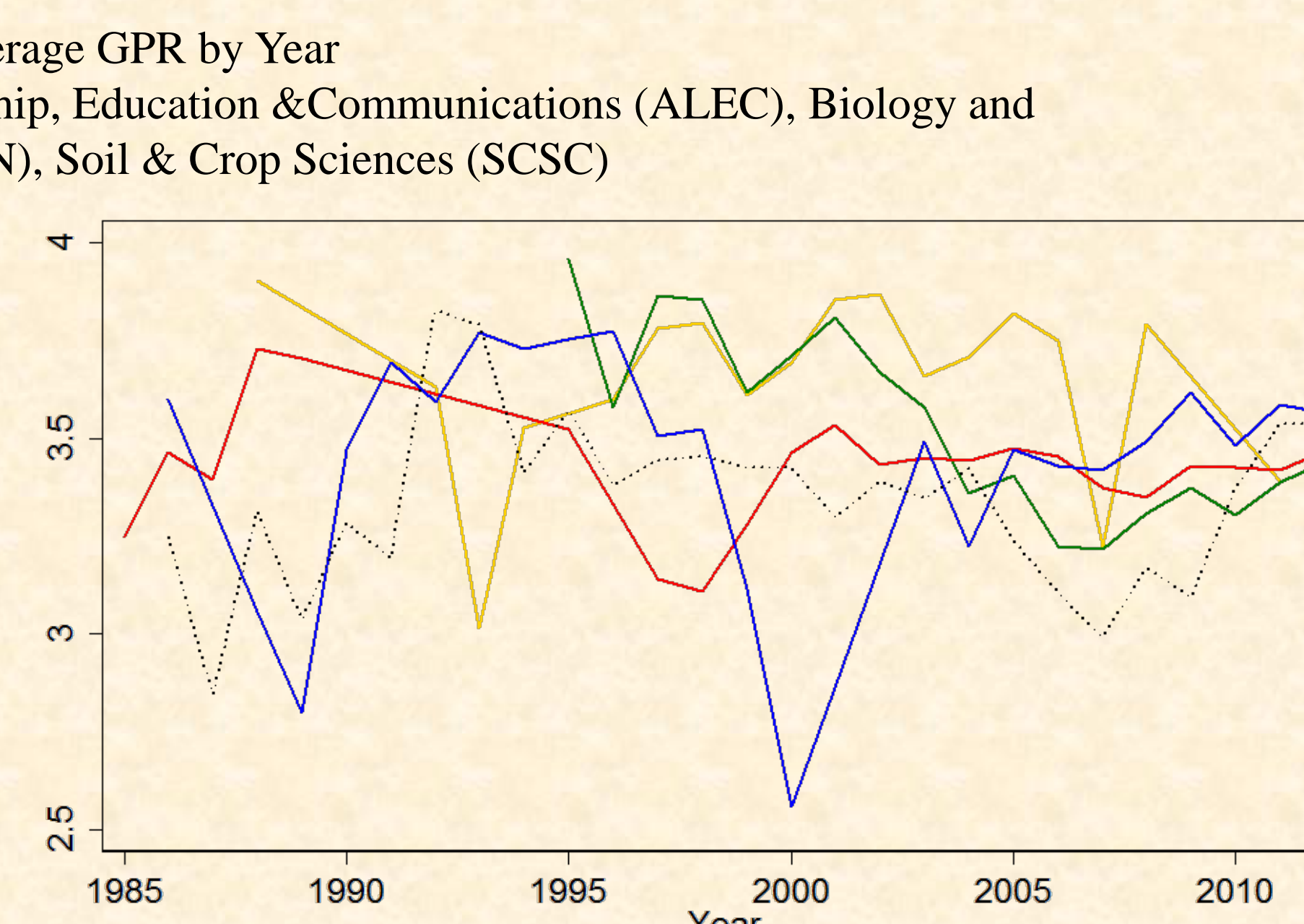
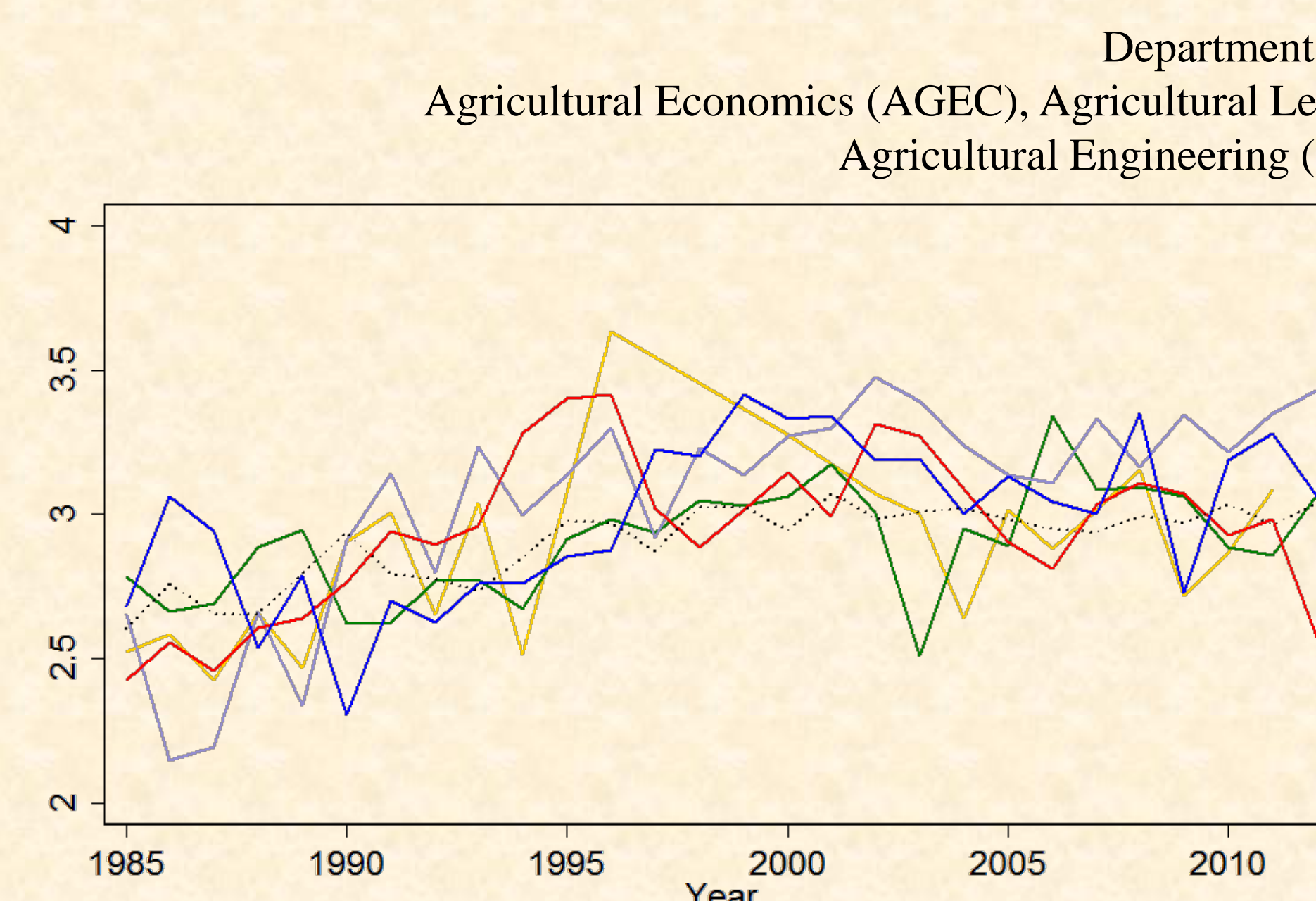
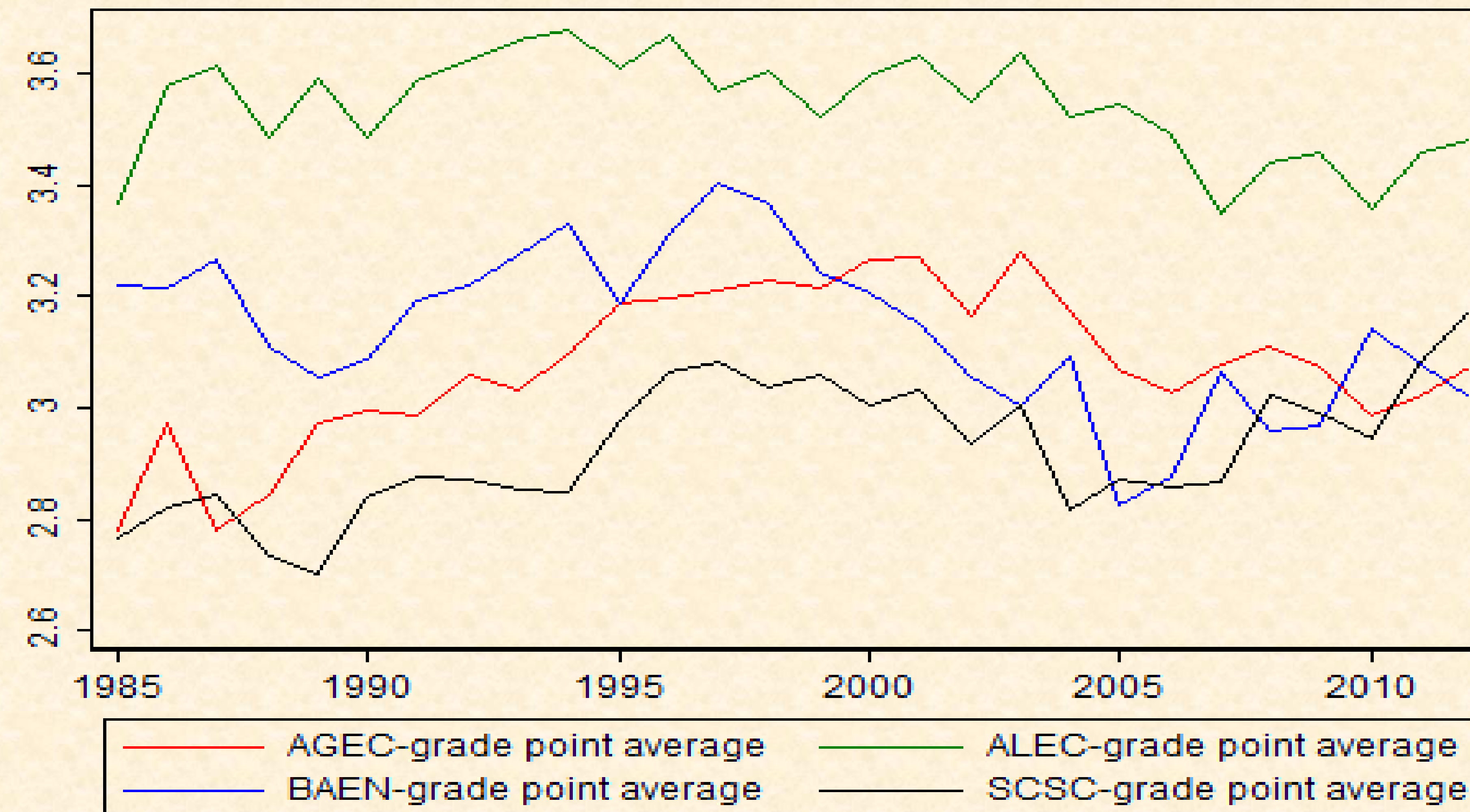


Approach

To achieve the study's research objectives:

- Publicly available data for the years 1985 - 2012 on class grade point ratios, number of students, characteristic of the person teaching (gender, graduation university, position, and etc.) were obtained.
- A mixed effects model is estimated.
- To compare the effects of different ranks on GPR, we select the "male" and "lecturer-graduate" as the base.

Results



— Lecturer-graduate — Lecturer-nongraduate
— Extension — Assistant professor
— Associate professor - - - Professor

Results & Discussion

Independent Variable	AGEC	ALEC	BAEN	SCSC
Lecturer-nongraduate	0.0748	-0.0606	0.1358	-0.2823***
Extension	0.2350***	---	---	---
Assistant Professor	0.0659	-0.1232**	0.3542**	-0.4941***
Associate Professor	0.1323**	-0.0669	0.2493*	-0.1022**
Professor	0.0495	-0.2760***	0.3087**	-0.4115***
Year (trend)	0.0154***	-0.0031	-0.0092***	0.0117***
Class Size	-0.0012***	-0.0001	-0.0033***	0.0004
Female	-0.0584	0.0563**	-0.1918***	-0.2202

* p < 0.10, ** p < 0.05, *** p < 0.01

- Department of AGECE and SCSC have a significant small upward trend in GPR from 1985 to 2012; in contrast, BAEN has a significant downward trend in GPR.
- Compared to Lecturer-graduates, generally, the Departments of AGECE and BAEN's higher rank instructors tend to assign higher grades; however, higher-ranking instructors in the other two departments (ALEC and SCSC) are likely to give a lower grades.
- Generally, class size exerts a significantly negative effect on GPR.
- Only in ALEC and BAEN, does the gender of the instructor have a significant effect on the grades. Their effects, however, are opposite.

Conclusions

- Results are department specific.
- Generally speaking, if students select a class with smaller size, the student will probably get a higher grade. In terms of the gender and rank of the instructors, it will depend on department. It is hard to provide any strong recommendations to students to obtain higher grades.