

S.M. 2/5/66

3 c)

To: Senate

From: Registrar

Subject: PROPOSED GRADING SYSTEM
AT SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

April 25, 1966

Two Proposed Grading System papers are attached:

- 1) Paper C) - 1 was approved by the Faculties of Science and Education,
- 2) Paper C) - 2 was presented by the Faculty of Arts as an amendment to paper C) - 1.

The two papers are now presented for the consideration of Senate.

D. P. Robertson

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President's Committee on Examination
Grading and Scholastic Standings.

PROPOSED GRADING SYSTEM AT SFU

March 28, 1966.

A. Grading Scale -

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Pts. for Internal Use</u>	<u>Pts. for External Use</u>
A+	4.5	4.0
A	4.0	4.0
B+	3.5	3.0
B	3.0	3.0
B-	2.5	3.0
C	2.0	2.0
C-	1.5	2.0
D	1.0	1.0
F	0	0
Def. *	0	0
N **	0	0

Instructors would submit letter grades from Column 1. The Registrar would convert to Columns 2 and 3. Columns 1 and 3 would appear on the student's statement of marks. Column 2 would be a "private" calculation to provide to the SFU Scholarship and Awards Committee each semester a list which makes finer distinctions than the four categories used in Column 3.

Questions:

- (a) Why not just use Column 2? The Committee was of the opinion that the use of Column 2 "inside" and Column 3 "outside" satisfied both sides on the controversy over the degree of exactitude possible in marking. And it does no damage to the student if all faculty strive to use the full range of grades available knowing that the fine structure of grade points is only for internal purposes.

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- * The letter grade, Def., will be given when a physician's certificate or other document substantiating a request for a deferment on medical or compassionate grounds is received by the Registrar within four days of the date on which the examination was to have been written and when such deferment is agreed to by the instructor involved. The Def. grade may be removed when a new grade is established; the method of establishing the new grade is a matter between the instructor and the Registrar.
- ** The letter grade N is given when a student registered for a course and did not write the examination and did not withdraw before the set date. An N is considered an F for purposes of scholastic standing.

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Gradation

While some fine structure is essential for the purposes of the Scholarship and Awards Committee the four point scale is certainly the most commonly used in North America and there appears to be some virtue in helping our students to appear reasonably "normal" on their transcripts.

- (b) Will it not be puzzling, to students as well as others, if a man with 5(A+) comes out with the same grade points as a man with 5(A)?

To some degree, it may be puzzling, but no more so than that the very same thing occurs under every conceivable system of grading except percentage points or some similar ultra-fine structure. All this proposal does is draw attention to this possibility and give a lift to the student with 5(A+) which would not be possible with mere A's. In addition, the man with 5(A+) does appear ahead of the man with 5(A) on the Scholarship list.

- B. A grade point average is computed by the Registrar by dividing the total number of grade points by the total number of semester hours.

Example:

	<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Numerical Value</u>	<u>Semester Hours</u>	<u>Grade Point</u>
Course 1	A	4	3	12
Course 2	A+	4	3	12
Course 3	B-	3	3	9
Course 4	C	2	3	6
Course 5	F	0	4	0
			<u>16</u>	<u>39</u>

$$\text{Grade Point Average } \frac{39}{16} = 2.44$$

- C. Standings for the Semester

The Committee recommends that no rigid determination be made of the grade point average required for First Class, Second Class and Pass Standing at this time. The Committee recommends that for the time being the Scholarship and Awards Committee determine for its own purposes and for the purposes of government awards what the cut-off points are for each semester.

- D. Credit for the Semester

The Committee recommends that any semester hours credit gained be granted to the student regardless of the standing in the course, or number of courses passed, or the grade point average.

- E. Standings required for continuance at the University

The Committee recommends that students receiving a grade point average less than 2.0 be placed on "probation" and that further action to be taken in such cases be determined by the Senate Committee on Admissions and Standings.

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Examination

F. Standings Required for Graduation

The Committee recommends that the minimum requirement for graduation be a grade point average of 2.0 computed on the courses used for credit towards the degree, and in addition there may be further requirements established by departments for their major and honors program.

- G. The Committee was asked by the Committee of Heads to make a recommendation regarding the re-writing of papers. The Committee recommends that, except in the case of a Def. grade, a student not be allowed to re-write (or write, in the case of receiving an N grade) a paper unless he re-registers for the course and participates in the course as required by the instructor.

Respectfully submitted,

G. L. Bursill-Hall (Sub. B.E. Newton)
R. Coombes - Secretary
P. Copes
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D. P. Robertson - Chairman
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Grading

To: Senate

Paper No. 3C) - 2

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GRADING SYSTEM PROPOSED BY THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE
ON EXAMINATION GRADING AND SCHOLASTIC STANDING.

Amendment 1 : It is proposed that Columns 1 and 2 of the Committee's proposal be changed to read as follows :

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Pts. for Internal Use</u>	<u>(Col. 3: same)</u>
A+	4.33 (or 4.3)	
A	4.0	
A-	3.66 (or 3.7)	
B+	3.33 (or 3.3)	
B	3.0	
B-	2.66 (or 2.7)	
C+	2.33 (or 2.3)	
C	2.0	
C-	1.66 (or 1.7)	
D+	1.33 (or 1.3)	
D	1.0	
D-	0.66 (or 0.7)	
F	0	
Def *	0	
N **	0	

* The letter grade, Def., will be given when a physician's certificate or other document substantiating a request for a deferment on medical or compassionate grounds is received by the Instructor within four days of the date on which the examination was to have been written. The Def. grade may be removed when a new grade is established; the method of establishing the new grade is a matter between the instructor and the Registrar.

** The letter grade N is given when a student registered for a course and did not write the examination and did not withdraw before the set date. An N is considered an F for purposes of scholastic standing.

Amendment 2: Add the letter grade I (Incomplete) to Column 1, making it a grade to be given at the discretion of the teacher and to be converted automatically into an F (by the Registrar) after an allotted period of time.

(Passed by the Faculty of Arts at its meeting
of April 21, 1966)

April 25, 1966