

SM 7/11/66

Paper - 3 G. *Grading*

To: Senate

From: Secretary

Subject: Comment on Summer Semester Grades
by Heads of Departments

Date: Oct. 20, 1966

A questionnaire was circulated to all Heads to elicit comments on the summer semester grades.

One problem we tried to approach was the effect class size has on grades.

<u>Number of Students</u>	<u>Percentage of F's</u>
0 - 25	8
26 - 50	14
51 - 75	9
76 - 100	7
100 +	5

The majority of Heads felt the classes in the summer semester were too small and unrepresentative from which to draw any conclusions. There was some suggestion that the percentage of F's is expected to increase as the class size grows, but the tutorial system offsets this expected increase.

We noted that the failure rate in introductory courses varied considerably (3% in English 101 and 30% in Physics 101). Three possibilities were advanced to explain this variation: the difference in analytic content, the difference in philosophy - the encouragement of many versus the selection of the few, the difference in external or self selection of the students enrolled in the courses. This question obviously requires much more study.

We also asked why the results vary with apparent homogeneous student groups - e.g. Languages and Linguistics, Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics. The comments stressed differences in course content and attitude of the teachers. There was general agreement that some means of encouraging faculty discussion of the individual interpretation of the various grades should be found.

There were numerous comments on the impossibility of defining a "correct" distribution of grades. One comment in particular could be quoted:

"The two prevailing assumptions - a) that there is a unitary factor of intelligence in all people, and - b) that this function is distributed randomly amongst the population; are being largely abandoned by present-day psychologists. All the evidence suggests that there are many "intelligences", that these are not randomly distributed, and that they mature at different times in different individuals.

The implications of this mean that we cannot accept the concept of a normal distribution of "productivity" even within one area, let alone across different areas (and even such comparisons rest on another dubious assumption, namely that examinations are a valid measure of these intelligences)."

It is realized that this commentary has not provided any concrete evidence that we have a useful or fair grading system, or that we can assure ourselves that it is being used properly, but we have shed light on some of the questions we should be asking ourselves. The study of grading and academic standings will carry on and when important results are found, these will be communicated to Senate.

D. P. Robertson, Registrar
and Secretary of Senate

64-21-66

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SIMON FRASE UNIVERSITY

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SUMMARY OF EXAMINATION STATISTICS BY DEPARTMENT

SUMMER 66 SEMESTER

DEPARTMENT	TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS	A	B	C	D	F	-N- GRADES	NUMBER OF
ECONOMICS								
ECON 100-3	94	3.19	24.47	43.62	11.70	17.02		9
ECON 150-3	75	8.00	24.00	36.00	20.00	12.00		5
ECON 200-3	52	9.62	19.23	30.77	17.31	23.08		5
ECON 205-3	37	13.51	32.43	29.73	10.81	13.51		7
ECON 236-3	17	17.65	23.53	23.53	17.65	17.65		
ECON 353-5	10	10.00	40.00	20.00	20.00	10.00		1
TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS	285	8.07	24.91	35.44	15.44	16.14		27

DEPARTMENT	TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS	A	B	C	D	F	-N- GRADES	NUMBER OF
COMMERCE								
COMM 203-3	55	9.09	21.82	34.55	7.27	27.27		14
TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE	55	9.09	21.82	34.55	7.27	27.27		14

DEPARTMENT	TOTAL NO.	PERCENTAGE STANDING				NUMBER OF	
	OF STUDENTS	A	B	C	D	F	-N- GRADES
ENGLISH							
ENGL 101-3	58	12.07	43.10	37.93	3.45	3.45	6
ENGL 102-3	77	12.99	38.96	35.06	7.79	5.19	5
ENGL 103-3	156	7.05	60.26	28.85	1.92	1.92	7
ENGL 111-3	93	20.43	47.31	20.43	9.68	2.15	11
ENGL 201-3	88	1.14	61.36	25.00	5.60	6.82	
ENGL 407-3	26	7.69	42.31	30.77		19.23	7
ENGL 416-3	41	2.44	24.39	39.02	9.76	24.39	3
ENGL 457-2	30	6.67	50.00	13.33	3.33	26.67	2
ENGL 466-2	40	2.50	45.00	22.50	12.50	17.50	2
TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH	609	8.87	49.43	28.24	5.75	7.72	43
GEOGRAPHY							
GEOG 162-3							
GEOG 211-3	131	3.82	25.95	54.20	10.69	5.34	10
GEOG 241-3	35	8.57	48.57	37.14	2.86	2.86	3
GEOG 311-5	61	14.75	47.54	21.31	8.20	8.20	6
	6	16.67	83.33				6
TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY	233	7.73	36.48	41.63	8.58	5.58	19

DEPARTMENT	TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS	PERCENTAGE STANDING				NUMBER OF -N- GRADES	
	A	B	C	D	F		
ENGLISH							
ENGL 101-3	58	12.07	43.10	37.93	3.45	3.45	6
ENGL 102-3	77	12.99	38.96	35.06	7.79	5.19	5
ENGL 103-3	156	7.05	60.26	28.85	1.92	1.92	7
ENGL 111-3	93	20.43	47.31	20.43	9.68	2.15	11
ENGL 201-3	88	1.14	61.36	25.00	5.68	6.82	
ENGL 407-3	26	7.69	42.31	30.77	19.23	19.23	7
ENGL 416-3	41	2.44	24.39	39.02	9.76	24.39	3
ENGL 457-2	30	6.67	50.00	13.33	3.33	26.67	2
ENGL 466-2	40	2.50	45.00	22.50	12.50	17.50	2
TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH	609	8.87	49.43	28.24	5.75	7.72	43

DEPARTMENT	TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS	PERCENTAGE STANDING				NUMBER OF -N- GRADES	
	A	B	C	D	F		
GEOGRAPHY							
GEOG 162-3	131	3.82	25.95	54.20	10.69	5.34	10
GEOG 211-3	35	8.57	48.57	37.14	2.86	2.86	3
GEOG 241-3	61	14.75	47.54	21.31	8.20	8.20	6
GEOG 311-5	6	16.67	83.33				
TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY	233	7.73	36.48	41.63	8.58	5.58	19

DEPARTMENT	TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS	A	B	C	D	F	NUMBER OF -N- GRADES
HIST 101-3	97	5.15	28.87	26.80	22.68	16.49	9
HIST 204-3	79	3.80	35.44	34.18	16.46	10.13	5
HIST 205-3	82	13.41	54.88	30.49		1.22	4
HIST 207-3	43	11.63	25.58	53.49	4.65	4.65	5
HIST 306-3	10	10.00	50.00	20.00		20.00	1
TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY	311	8.04	37.62	33.12	11.90	9.32	24

DEPARTMENT	TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS	A	B	C	D	F	NUMBER OF -N- GRADES
FREN 100-3	29	31.03	20.69	27.59	13.79	6.90	3
FREN 101-3	23	8.70	43.48	30.43	4.35	13.04	3
FREN 201-3	34	8.82	23.53	41.18	11.76	14.71	
FREN 202-3	27	11.11	44.44	25.93	7.41	11.11	
FREN 203-3	3	33.33	33.33		33.33		
TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH	116	15.52	31.90	31.03	10.34	11.21	6

DEPARTMENT	TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS	A	B	C	D	F	NUMBER OF -N- GRADES
GERMAN							
GERM 100-3	4	25.00	50.00	25.00			1
GERM 101-3	6	16.67	33.33	33.33	16.67		
GERM 201-3	5		80.00	20.00			
GERM 202-3	3	33.33	33.33	33.33			
GERM 203-3	3		66.67	33.33			
TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN	21	14.29	42.86	33.33	9.52		1

DEPARTMENT	TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS	A	B	C	D	F	NUMBER OF -N- GRADES
RUSSIAN							
RUSS 100-3	7	28.57	28.57	28.57	14.29		
RUSS 101-3	4	25.00	25.00	50.00			
RUSS 201-3	4	25.00	75.00				
TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF RUSSIAN	15	26.67	40.00	26.67	6.67		

APPROVED

DEPARTMENT	TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS	A	B	C	D	F	NUMBER OF -N- GRADES
SPAN 100-3	5	20.00	60.00			20.00	
SPAN 101-3	6	16.67	50.00	16.67	16.67		1
SPAN 201-3	5	20.00	40.00		40.00		
SPAN 202-3	5	20.00	80.00				
TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF ANISH	21	19.05	57.14	4.76	14.29	4.76	1

DEPARTMENT	TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS	A	B	C	D	F	NUMBER OF -N- GRADES
LING 220-3	23	8.70	26.09	21.74	17.39	26.09	4
LING 221-3	10	10.00	40.00	20.00	10.00	20.00	1
TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS	33	9.09	30.30	21.21	15.15	24.24	5

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DEPARTMENT	TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS	PERCENTAGE STANDING				F	NUMBER OF -N- GRADES
		A	B	C	D		
PHIL 103-3	67	2.99	37.31	52.24	2.99	4.48	9
PHIL 202-3	28	3.57	64.29	32.14			2
TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY	95	3.16	45.26	46.32	2.11	3.16	11

DEPARTMENT	TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS	PERCENTAGE STANDING				F	NUMBER OF -N- GRADES
		A	B	C	D		
PSA 101-3	157	5.73	61.15	24.20	2.55	6.37	2
PSA 171-3	83	8.43	46.99	39.76	3.61	1.20	8
PSA 211-3	43	16.28	58.14	13.95		11.63	
PSA 231-3	43	9.30	34.88	25.58	4.65	25.58	1
TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY	326	8.28	53.68	26.99	2.76	8.28	11

Official

DEPARTMENT	TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS	PERCENTAGE STANDING					NUMBER OF -N- GRADES
		A	B	C	D	F	
PSYC 101-3	68	11.76	23.53	47.06	14.71	2.94	11
PSYC 201-3	50	8.00	26.00	34.00	18.00	14.00	3
PSYC 210-3	11	9.09	45.45	9.09	18.18	18.18	
PSYC 220-3	15	13.33	33.33	20.00	20.00	13.33	
PSYC 230-3	14	21.43	42.86	14.29	21.43		3
TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY	158	11.39	28.48	34.81	17.09	8.23	17

DEPARTMENT	TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS	PERCENTAGE STANDING					NUMBER OF -N- GRADES
		A	B	C	D	F	
BISC 102-4	67	10.45	56.72	19.40		13.43	4
BISC 202-3	58	29.31	31.03	22.41		17.24	2
BISC 315-3	8	62.50	37.50				1
TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES	133	21.80	44.36	19.55		14.29	7

DEPARTMENT	TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS	PERCENTAGE STANDING				F	NUMBER OF -N- GRADES
CHEM 101-3	25	16.00	20.00	44.00	12.00	8.00	6
CHEM 102-3	45	6.67	33.33	44.44	8.89	6.67	2
CHEM 106-2	19	15.79	31.58	31.58	5.26	15.79	
CHEM 116-2	19	21.05	42.11	10.53	15.79	10.53	
CHEM 251-3	29	13.79	31.03	27.59	17.24	10.34	4
CHEM 256-2	29	13.79	27.59	51.72	3.45	3.45	1
CHEM 261-3	8	25.00	37.50	12.50		25.00	3

TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

174	13.79	31.03	36.21	9.77	9.20	16
TOTAL NO.	PERCENTAGE STANDING					NUMBER OF

DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT	TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS	PERCENTAGE STANDING				F	NUMBER OF -N- GRADES
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ATHEMATICS

MATH 101-3	38	7.89	28.95	34.21	13.16	15.79	11
MATH 111-3	47	19.15	12.77	14.89	31.91	21.28	5
MATH 112-3	50	10.00	20.00	30.00	24.00	16.00	4
MATH 213-3	44	15.91	22.73	22.73	11.36	27.27	9
MATH 214-3	20	10.00	15.00	30.00	20.00	25.00	2
MATH 231-3	40	17.50	15.00	35.00	22.50	10.00	12
MATH 412-4	4		75.00		25.00		
MATH 421-4	3		66.67	33.33			
MATH 432-4	2		100.00				
MATH 482-4	4	25.00	25.00	25.00		25.00	

TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

257	13.49	21.43	26.59	20.24	18.25	43
TOTAL NO.	PERCENTAGE STANDING					NUMBER OF

DEPARTMENT	TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS	PERCENTAGE STANDING				NUMBER OF -N- GRADES
		A	B	C	D	
PHYS 101-3	23	26.09	8.70	17.39	17.39	30.43
PHYS 102-3	30	6.67	16.67	13.33	46.67	16.67
PHYS 211-3	25	20.00	20.00	24.00	12.00	24.00
PHYS 231-3	22	27.27	36.36	27.27	4.55	4.55
PHYS 232-3	5	40.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	
PHYS 331-3	1	100.00				
PHYS 332-3	1	100.00				
PHYS 341-4	2	50.00		50.00		
PHYS 381-4	1	100.00				
TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS	110	22.73	19.09	20.00	20.91	17.27

DEPARTMENT	TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS	PERCENTAGE STANDING				NUMBER OF -N- GRADES
		A	B	C	D	
D.S.F. EDUCATION						
EDUC 201-3	127	10.24	61.42	17.32	.79	10.24
TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF D.S.F. EDUCATION	127	10.24	61.42	17.32	.79	10.24

DEPARTMENT	TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS	A	B	C	D	F	NUMBER OF -N- GRADES
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM							
PDP 401-0	56	53.57	32.14	12.50		1.79	
PDP 402-7	52	30.77	51.92	11.54		5.77	2
PDP 404-							59
TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM	108	42.59	41.67	12.04		3.70	61

DEPARTMENT	TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS	A	B	C	D	F	NUMBER OF -N- GRADES
P.F. EDUCATION							
EDUC 202-3	147	11.56	71.43	13.61	2.04	1.36	1
TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF P.F. EDUCATION	147	11.56	71.43	13.61	2.04	1.36	1

DEPARTMENT	TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS	PERCENTAGE STANDING				NUMBER OF -N- GRADES
		A	B	C	D	F
CC+A 401-3	12	8.33	91.67			
TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE CENTRE FOR COMMUNICATION AND THE ARTS	12	8.33	91.67			

DEPARTMENT	TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS	PERCENTAGE STANDING				NUMBER OF -N- GRADES
		A	B	C	D	F
UNIVERSITY OVERALL TOTAL	3,341	11.79	40.41	28.94	8.86	10.00
						319

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