

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.85-60

MEMORANDUM

To.....Members of Senate

From Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies

Subject...Graduate Grading System

Date November 13, 1985

Action undertaken by the Senate Graduate Studies Committee at its Meeting on November 12, 1985, gives rise to the following motion:

MOTION:

"That Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors, as set forth in S.85-60, the proposed change in the Graduate Grading System:

The Graduate Grading System be changed as follows:

- i) the introduction of A-, B+ and B- grades
- ii) replacement of P by C"

Rationale for this change is outlined in the attached paper.



Bruce P. Clayman
Dean of Graduate Studies.

mm/
attachs.

SENIOR FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To..... Faculty of Science
..... Graduate Studies Committee
Subject..... LETTER GRADES

From..... B.P. Clayman, Chairman
..... Faculty of Science
..... Graduate Studies Committee
Date..... 15 April 1985

I recently received a suggestion from an instructor in a graduate course that the graduate grading structure be modified to allow finer distinctions to be made. Specifically, the use of + and - grades, as at the undergraduate level was suggested. In making up his grades, the instructor wanted to distinguish between A and A- performance, for a clear separation was evident from the student's submitted work.

I support this suggestion and solicit your reaction to the proposal that the graduate grade scale (section 1.5.1 of the general regulations) be modified to read:

A	=	4.00 points
A-	=	3.67 points
B+	=	3.33 points
B	=	3.00 points
C	=	2.00 points
F	=	0

You will note that only grades higher than 3.00, the minimum average acceptable for continuation, have fine graduations. Introducing a four level scale instead of only two will increase the opportunity to make fine distinctions. Not introducing an A+ grade will maintain comparability with the present grade structure.

I also suggest that "P" be replaced by "C". I have never understood the reason for using "P" and the ambiguity between a "P" (meaning "C") and a "P" (in a Pass/Fail grading system) is undesirable; many other institutions use "P" in this latter sense.

I would appreciate your consideration of these changes. Please discuss them with your colleagues and let me know the reactions. I would be pleased to discuss this proposal with you.


B.P. Clayman

BPC/dy

cc: Chairmen, Faculty of Science
Dean J.F. Cochran, Faculty of Science