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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION:	Senate	DATE:	August 14, 2025
FROM:	Zareen Naqvi, Institutional Research and Planning (IRP)	PAGES:	1 of 1
RE:	IRP Reports for Information		

At a meeting of Senate held on March 7, 2011, Senator Paul Percival requested that relevant IRP reports, such as the annual Grades Report, be brought to Senate for information.

Attached are two reports for information:

- **2024/25 Grades Report:** This report is prepared once a year and it summarizes course grades at the University over a ten-year period. This year's Grades Report covers the period from 2015/16 to 2024/25. The Grades Report has two parts:
 - a summary report (attached), and
 - a Tableau dashboard with tables and charts available to SFU faculty, staff, and senators on IRP's website: <https://www.sfu.ca/irp/students/grades-report.html>
- **2024 Undergraduate Student Survey (UGSS) Report:** The UGSS survey is conducted every fall term. The attached report presents a summary of key findings from the Fall 2024 survey. Topics covered are selected in consultation with faculties, Student Services and other administrative units of the University. This year's topics included: course availability, credential planning and completion, teaching and curriculum, services, and university culture and environment. The report can also be accessed on IRP's website: <http://www.sfu.ca/irp/surveys/ugss.html>

If you have trouble accessing files on IRP's website, please contact askIRP@sfu.ca.

Enclosure

2024/25 Grades Report:
Executive Summary of
Undergraduate and Graduate Course Grades
2015/16 to 2024/25

Prepared by
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Summer 2025

This report summarizes patterns in student course grades at Simon Fraser University over the ten-year period from 2015/16 to 2024/25¹. Grades are reported on a GPA scale. SFU faculty, staff, and senators can access a report with more detailed tables and charts (<https://www.sfu.ca/irp/students/grades-report.html>).

Effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Recent Grading Policies

- A combination of changes to grading policies and other effects of the COVID-19 pandemic coincided with a bump in average course grades at the undergraduate level.
- This bump occurred in both lower division (LD) and upper division (UD) courses.
- The pattern was seen in every faculty.
- Spring 2020 and Fall 2023 had the most generous grading policies², and these two periods have the largest bump in average course grades.
- Between these two terms, the Elective Grade Policy (from Spring 2021 through Summer 2023, inclusive) coincided with a lesser bump in average course grades.
- 2024/25 had no unusual grading policies in place, and average grades did decrease relative to 2023/24, but they did not return to their pre-pandemic levels.

10-Year Patterns

- Even ignoring the grading pattern associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and recent grading policies, over the past ten years the average grade awarded in courses has shown a gradually increasing trend in most faculties at the undergraduate and graduate levels.
- Comparing average course grades in 2015/16 versus 2024/25 at the faculty level, *increases* of at least 0.30 include grades awarded by:
 - Lower Division:
 - the Faculty of Education (+0.54)
 - the Faculty of Environment (+0.45)
 - Upper Division:
 - the Faculty of Health Sciences (+0.34)
- There are no faculty-level *decreases* of at least 0.30.
- Over the last decade, the Faculty of Education has awarded the *highest* average grades in most years in both undergraduate and graduate courses.
- In most years, the *lowest* average course grades have been awarded by:
 - LD: the Faculty of Science
 - UD: the Faculty of Science or the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
 - Grad: the Beedie School of Business
- In all faculties, graduate courses have consistently awarded higher average grades than upper division courses, which have awarded higher average grades than lower division courses.

¹ This report only includes grades with a numeric equivalent, plus P/CR/NC grades due to the Elective Grade System or the one-time Spring 2020/Fall 2023 grading policies; only grades with a numeric equivalent are included in averages. To protect personal data, statistics based on fewer than 10 grades are not included in this report.

² in response to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in Spring 2020 and the Fall 2023 TSSU strike

2024/25 Course Grades

- The average course grade this year was 3.01 in undergraduate courses (LD: 2.90; UD: 3.16), and 3.72 in graduate courses.
- Among faculties, the Faculty of Education awarded the highest proportion of A grades and the highest average grades this year in lower division and upper division courses. In graduate courses, the Faculty of Health Sciences awarded the highest proportion of A grades and the highest average grades.
- Among faculties, the lowest average grades were awarded by:
 - LD and UD: the Faculty of Science
 - Grad: the Beedie School of Business
- The subjects awarding the highest and lowest average grades this year were:
 - *Highest* average grades:
 - LD: PUNJ (4.15)
 - UD: SDA (4.07)
 - Grad: PSYC (4.14)
 - *Lowest* average grades:
 - LD: MACM (2.25)
 - UD: MACM (2.57)
 - Grad: ACMA (2.88)
 - Note that SDA and ACMA at these levels awarded fewer than 20 grades this year.
- A few course subjects have shown a large change (at least 0.30) in average grade awarded from last year to this year.
- Subjects with a large *increase* include:
 - FREN (LD: +0.36)
- Subjects with a large *decrease* include:
 - PERS (LD: -0.40)
 - URB (UD: -0.37)
 - NUSC (UD: -0.34)
 - MACM (LD: -0.34)
 - JAPN (UD: -0.33)
 - ARAB (LD: -0.33)
 - SD (UD: -0.32)
 - APMA (Grad: -0.31)
 - ARCH (Grad: -0.31)
- Note that URB awarded fewer than 20 grades at the upper division level each year, so significant year-to-year variability is not unexpected.
- Note that at the undergraduate level, decreasing average grades from 2023/24 to 2024/25 were much more likely than increasing average grades, due to the change in grading policies between the two years.

Student Faculty vs Course Faculty (Undergraduate Students in Undergraduate Courses)

- Student Faculty:
 - Students in a given faculty most frequently took courses from their own faculty.
 - Students from all faculties received their highest average grades in Faculty of Education courses.
- Course Faculty:
 - Courses in a given faculty were most often taken by students from that same faculty.
 - The exception is courses from the Faculty of Environment, which were most frequently taken by students from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.
 - In terms of how courses in each faculty awarded grades to students from different faculties:
 - Courses in the Faculty of Applied Sciences awarded its highest average grades to Faculty of Applied Sciences students.
 - Courses in the Faculty of Education awarded its highest average grades to Faculty of Health Sciences students.
 - Courses in the Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences awarded their highest average grades to students from the Faculty of Science.
 - Courses from the remaining faculties awarded their highest average grades to students from the Beedie School of Business.