

# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

5.392

## MEMORANDUM

SENATE

From L. A. BOLAND, CHAIRMAN  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EXAMINATION AND  
GRADING PRACTICES

Subject INTERIM REPORT ON ITEMS REFERRED  
TO THE COMMITTEE

Date JULY 21, 1970

- I. The Committee has held a series of meetings to consider a number of specific items. In its first meetings, the Committee developed Terms of Reference which were submitted to Senate and approved by Senate at the meeting of July 6, 1970.
- II. Particular attention has been given to matters arising from the Mitzman motion which was approved by Senate at its meeting on June 1, 1970, to the effect that: "If the grades submitted by an instructor are not approved by the departmental chairman, and if the faculty member concerned does not adequately explain or reassess the grades, then credit without grades will be assigned to all students in the course with the provision that any individual student who wishes his or her work assessed by an independent examiner may apply in writing to the department chairman who will arrange for the appropriate assessment and transmittal of the appropriate grade to the Registrar. Students applying for independent assessment must do so within the following semester."

The Committee noted that in those instances where there are credits without grades there could be problems, particularly with Government of British Columbia scholarships, and also problems concerning determination as to whether or not a student should be placed on academic warning, on probation, required to withdraw or required to withdraw permanently. These matters, in particular, would be of concern to the Senate Scholarship Committee and to the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Standings.

- III. For the current semester 70-2, the Committee is of the unanimous opinion that for scholarship purposes and continuation of study purposes that a substitute grade should be calculated for courses with credit but without grades - with such grade not to appear on statements of marks or transcripts but only to be used in calculating the student's average for the purposes noted. The substitute grade should reflect the student's gradings in other courses undertaken during the current semester, and the student's overall grading on other courses taken previously at this institution. Generally, the substitute grading should have somewhat more weight placed on recent work than on overall work, provided that the work undertaken recently represents a reasonable course load. The Committee has developed a formula to achieve these ends, to accommodate most cases. Unusual cases may require special decisions by the Committees concerned.

The Committee recommends the following motions to Senate for approval for the Semester 70-2:-

1. "That for the Summer Semester 70-2, if a student is to receive credit without grade in one or more courses for the current semester then a substitute grading be calculated, for use by the Senate Scholarship Committee and by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Standings but not for entry on statements of marks or transcripts. The substitute grading average will be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Substitute Grade Average} = \frac{R.G. + (N - R) X}{N}$$

where

R = The number of credit hours applicable to those courses where approved gradings have been submitted for the Summer Semester 70-2.

G = The GPA (grade point average) for R for Semester 70-2.

N = The total credit hours applicable to courses for which the student was formally registered this semester, including both graded and non-graded courses.

X = One half the sum of [the cumulative grade point average on work undertaken at this institution prior to the current semester plus the grade point average of Semester 70-1 or of Semester 69-3 provided the load for the semester was 12 or more hours]."

Note: In the calculation of X, if the course load for Semester 70-1 equals 12 or more hours, the grade point average of that semester will be used; if the course load for Semester 70-1 was less than 12 hours but the load for Semester 69-3 was equal to or greater than 12 hours then the grade point average for Semester 69-3 will be used; and if the course load for Semester 70-1 or 69-3 were both less than 12 hours then X will be equal to the cumulative grade point average (excluding the work of Semester 70-2).

2. "That, for calculating a substitute grading for Semester 70-2, in those instances where a student has no prior record at this institution but where the student this semester has courses with approved gradings in 11 or more hours, the student's average will be calculated on the courses comprising the 11 or more hours."

Note: In effect this would give a substitute grading average equivalent to the average grading of the other courses for 70-2. No specific recommendation is made for cases where the student has less than 11 graded hours remaining in 70-2, as it is considered these must be judged by the Committees concerned. The intent of the previous items will provide guide lines.

3. If motions 1 and/or 2 are approved:-

"That these motions be drawn to the attention of the Senate Scholarship Committee and the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Standings for appropriate use by them for Semester 70-2."

IV. The Committee has been charged with reporting back to Senate on the referral of the Scholarship Committee Paper S.375, and on Paper S.379 (K. Rieckhoff) by the close of Semester 70-2. The Committee is unable to comment further at this time on these papers and requires further detailed study before submitting additional report.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To SENATE

From L. A. Boland  
Chairman

*L. A. Boland*

Senate Committee on Examination &  
Grading Practices

Subject INTERIM REPORT ON ITEMS REFERRED TO  
THE COMMITTEE - REFERENCE PAPER S.392.

Date July 30, 1970.

Reference is made to Senate Paper S.392, Page 2, Item 1.

The Senate Committee on Examination & Grading Practices reconsidered the definition of 'X' as indicated in Item 1, Page 2 of Paper S.392 and requests that the following definition of 'X', and of the Note, be made when the paper is presented for consideration:

X = One half the sum of  $\sqrt{\text{the cumulative grade point average on work undertaken at this institution prior to the current semester plus the grade point average of Semester 70-1, or of Semester 69-3, or of Semester 69-2, provided the load for the semester was 12 or more hours}}$

Note: In the calculation of 'X', if the course load for Semester 70-1 equals 12 or more hours the grade point average of that semester will be used; if the course load for Semester 70-1 was less than 12 hours but the load for Semester 69-3 was equal to or greater than 12 hours then the grade point average for Semester 69-3 will be used; if the course load for Semester 70-1 or for Semester 69-3 was less than 12 hours but the load for Semester 69-2 was equal to or greater than 12 hours then the grade point average for Semester 69-2 will be used; and if the course loads for each of the Semesters 70-1 or 69-3 or 69-2 were less than 12 hours then 'X' will be equal to the cumulative grade point average (excluding the work of Semester 70-2).

Explanation

1) The original proposal allowed utilization of work of 12 hours or more for 70-1 or 69-3. The change permits consideration back to 69-2 and is made because of the unusual situation which arose in 69-3 through discontinuation of a number of PSA courses.

2) The Senate Committee on Examination & Grading Practices emphasized its desire that in any instances where the utilization of the substitute grading generates an average of a border-line-doubtful type, that the benefit of the doubt be given the student, and that this was particularly important in the case of decisions relating to academic warning, on probation and requirement to withdraw.