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.

B.P. Clayman

Bruce P. Clayman
Dean of Graduate Studies.

mm/
attachs.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty of Science Graduate Studies Committee	From: B.P. Clayman, Chairman Faculty of Science Graduate Studies Committee
Subject: LETTER GRADES	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.

Bruce Clayman

B.P. Clayman

BPC/dy

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