

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

SM 7/11/66

SIMON FRASE UNIVERSITY

PAGE 1

SUMMARY OF EXAMINATION STATISTICS BY DEPARTMENT

SUMMER '66 SEMESTER

| DEPARTMENT | TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS | A | B | C | D | F | NUMBER OF -N- GRADES |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------------|
| 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 | NUMBER OF -N- GRADES |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|----------------------|
| 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. 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 | 5.60 | 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 |

| 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 | 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 | 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 | | | | 6 |
| TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY | 233 | 7.73 | 36.48 | 41.63 | 8.58 | 5.50 | 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 | 1 |
| 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 ENGLISH | 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 | | |

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| 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 JAPANESE | 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 |

John

| DEPARTMENT | TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS | A | B | C | D | F | NUMBER OF -N- GRADES |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|------|-------|-------|------|------|----------------------|
| PHILOSOPHY | | | | | | | |
| 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 | A | B | C | D | F | NUMBER OF -N- GRADES |
|---|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|----------------------|
| POLITICAL SCIENCE, SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY | | | | | | | |
| 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 | A | B | C | D | F | NUMBER OF -N- GRADES |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------------|
| 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 |

SM 7/10/66

| DEPARTMENT | TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS | A | B | C | D | F | NUMBER OF -N- GRADES |
|---|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|---|-------|----------------------|
| 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 | | | | NUMBER OF -N- GRADES | |
|------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|----------------------|---|
| | | A | B | C | D | F | |
| 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

| DEPARTMENT | TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS | PERCENTAGE STANDING | | | | NUMBER OF -N- GRADES | |
|------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------|-------|------|----------------------|----|
| | | A | B | C | D | F | |
| | 174 | 13.79 | 31.03 | 36.21 | 9.77 | 9.20 | 16 |

ATHEMATICS

| DEPARTMENT | TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS | PERCENTAGE STANDING | | | | NUMBER OF -N- GRADES | |
|------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------|-------|-------|----------------------|----|
| | | A | B | C | D | F | |
| 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

| DEPARTMENT | TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS | PERCENTAGE STANDING | | | | NUMBER OF -N- GRADES | |
|------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|----------------------|----|
| | | A | B | C | D | F | |
| | 257 | 13.49 | 21.43 | 26.59 | 20.24 | 18.25 | 43 |

DEPARTMENT: **PHYSICS** TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS: **110** PERCENTAGE STANDING: **22.73** NUMBER OF -N- GRADES: **8**

| DEPARTMENT | TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS | A | B | C | D | F | -N- GRADES |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------|
| PHYS 101-3 | 23 | 26.09 | 8.70 | 17.39 | 17.39 | 30.43 | 4 |
| 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 | 4 |
| 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 | 8 |

DEPARTMENT: **D.S.F. EDUCATION** TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS: **127** PERCENTAGE STANDING: **17.32** NUMBER OF -N- GRADES: **4**

| DEPARTMENT | TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS | A | B | C | D | F | -N- GRADES |
|--|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-------|------------|
| EDUC 201-3 | 127 | 10.24 | 61.42 | 17.32 | .79 | 10.24 | 4 |
| TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF D.S.F. EDUCATION | 127 | 10.24 | 61.42 | 17.32 | .79 | 10.24 | 4 |

| DEPARTMENT | TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS | A | B | C | D | F | NUMBER OF -N- GRADES |
|--|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|---|------|----------------------|
| PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM | | | | | | | |
| PCP 401-0 | 56 | 53.57 | 32.14 | 12.50 | | 1.79 | |
| PCP 402-7 | 52 | 30.77 | 51.92 | 11.54 | | 5.77 | 2 |
| PCP 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: CC+A 401-3
 TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS: 12
 PERCENTAGE STANDING: A 8.33, B 91.67, C, D, F
 NUMBER OF -N- GRADES: 0

SM 7/11/66

TOTAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE CENTRE FOR COMMUNICATION AND THE ARTS: 12
 PERCENTAGE STANDING: A 8.33, B 91.67, C, D, F

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

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7/11/66