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Memos for SIA



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY, BURNABY, B.C., CANADA V5A 1S6  
FACULTY OF EDUCATION, 291-3395

February 13, 1980

Ms. Betty Fletcher  
Site 18C-6  
R. R. #6  
Vernon, B. C.  
V1T 6Y5

Dear Betty,

I was rather disturbed to get your note in class this evening. Disturbed for two reasons; first that you were so dissatisfied with the course that you felt compelled to withdraw and second that there appears some confusion over the expectations for the course.

Unfortunately there is little I can do now about the first point. In designing the course I attempted to create a climate which besides fulfilling my aims was also amenable to student needs. This in your case I failed to do, and I am very sorry that this occurred, for I am sincerely concerned about students needs and reactions. However there is little that I can do at this stage.

On the second point I do not feel so badly. I am confident that the expectations for the course were precise from the outset and never unclear as you suggest. Also I don't agree that the workload "was extremely heavy". In my opinion it was quite suitable for a course at this level, particularly since I reduced the requirements by 20%, and that most of the work involved projects which you were already engaged in as practicing teachers.

Furthermore, I resent your insinuations in the second part of your letter. Your claims that I do not respect your professional judgement, that my requirements are an insult, and that I do not actively pursue a climate of mutual trust and respect, are I suggest totally without foundation.

If however on further reflection you still maintain these views, I would be grateful if you would let me discuss them with you. I realize this must have been a frustrating experience for you, and sincerely do not want you left with negative feelings either about my self or SFU's attempt to contribute to the professional development of teachers.

In case I do not hear from you further, may I wish you continued success in your teaching career.

Sincerely,

Professor David Hopkins



DH:mt  
cc: M.F. Wideen

3 February 1986

To: David Hopkins, Instructor  
Curriculum Theory & Development  
S.F.U. Course #471

From: Elizabeth S. Fletcher  
Student No. 75301 ~ 0826

I feel that, from the start, the expectations for this course have been rather unclear. Two weeks ago you agreed to drop one of the five contracts because it was overwhelmingly believed that the workload was extremely heavy for the amount of time and course credits. Then last week you added that to achieve an A one would also have to make available for scrutiny, a complete set of notes on all the readings. After spending five hours just drawing up necessary contracts and considering the extent of the challenge at hand, I found this latest requirement to be very much of an insult. I do not feel that you trust our professional commitment to this course. The basis of a contract relationship must be in mutual trust and respect. Because you have given me the feeling that I must over-excel in order to prove that I deserve your four credits for this course, I am forced to withdraw. To me the concept of self-learning is not, unfortunately, working in a climate suitable for success. (See Knowles, Ch.1).