

No one will lose with new grading system - Blue

By FORREST ORSER

"The guiding principal will be to make sure no one loses by being caught in the change," says University of New Brunswick Senate Secretary Dugald Blue, referring to the up coming change over to the grade point system of marking.

The grade point system, recommended by the Kepros Report, will replace the present percentage grade system in the 1974-75 academic year.

All students, including those who started under the percentage grade system, will be given grade point marks.

Under the new system, letter grades, A, B, C, D, and F will be given instead of a percentage grade. Each letter has a set value;

that is, A - 4, B - 3, C - 2, D - 1, and F - 0. In order to graduate a student must have a final average of 2.00, which is a C average.

There is also provision in the report for rating the amount of work involved in each course. Most full term courses are six credit hour courses. With Senate approval, a faculty may list a course as having more or fewer credit hours. For example, a course might be listed as having eight credit hours, or five credit hours.

Final decisions on how the new system will be put into practice will be decided by the Senate in December.

Blue points out that it is difficult to be fair to everyone, but stresses that all involved are concerned

that no one suffers from the change over.

Blue met with members of the Student Representative Council and student senators on Wednesday. Among the matters discussed was the right of students to substitute marks for lower marks, and the right of students to repeat their first year without academic penalty.

The graduation standing of students who started under the percentage grade system, but finished under the grade point system, will be worked out under both systems. Blue thinks in most cases the results will be very similar. In cases where one system works to the advantage of an individual student, he thinks this system will be used.

Blue points out that this system is much closer to that used in American universities, and over half of Canadian universities.

At the present time percentage marks given at UNB often have been translated into letter grades for students applying to other universities.

Commenting on the opposition raised by some faculties to the new system, Blue says that he thinks with some modifications the system will be acceptable to all faculties. According to Blue they all recognize the need for a uniform system of marking within the university.



Dugald Blue

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