

Registrar explains our new marking system

By D.C. BLUE
Registrar

The University Senate has approved the new grading system for introduction in 1974-75. Naturally, students will be wondering how this affects them.

Next week, on March 21st, the SRC is sponsoring a forum on this, at which I, along with others, will be answering questions. If you have questions, you should attend. We are planning to send a full explanation of the system with final marks at the end of May.

In a short article, I cannot try to answer all possible questions, but here are a few points which may be of interest.

Where are the letter grades?

Marks that previously were first division will now be represented by A plus, A, and A minus (values 4.3, 4.0, 3.7). Second division grades will now be B plus, B, and B minus (values 3.3, 3.0, 2.7). Most of the previous third division marks will appear as C plus or C (there is no C minus) with values of 2.3 and 2.0 respectively. The grade of D (with value of 1.0) is, in effect, a conditional pass and will, as it does now in Engineering, represent the 40-50 percent mark range. If you get a D you can keep the credit, but you will have to compensate by doing better in other courses. Also a few departments may not accept a D for prerequisite or major requirements. F is a failure, and has a value of 0.0.

Credit Hours

Each course is given a credit hour weight by the faculty concerned. In Arts, for next year, most courses have a weight of 6 credit hours (if year courses) or 3 credit hours (if term courses). Other faculties vary somewhat. By multiplying the number of credit hours by the value of the grade obtained you get the grade-points, e.g. Classics 1000 - 6 credit hours; grade B - 18 grade-points are earned.

Cumulative Grade-Point Average

This is obtained by dividing the total number of grade-points earned by the number of credit hours attempted. A cumulative grade-point average gives the result of this for all courses taken to date (unless permission to replace them has been obtained).

See example in Box: (For simplicity no plus or minus grades have been used).

Sliding Scale of C.G.P.A.

The minimum average for graduation is 2.00 (or a C average), for students entering in 1974-75.

In order to allow students time to adjust to University, there is a sliding scale

(University minima 1st year - 1.5; second year - 1.8; third year - 1.93; and thereafter 2.0).

To make the transition less drastic (since faculty as well as students next year must adjust), all students need only achieve 1.5 next year (e.g. 3 C's, 2 D's can give a 1.6 average), the following year 1.8, etc. We hope most of you will do better than this.

Remember a 2.0 average is only a C average - not a very difficult feat with a modicum of work.

What are you losing by the change?

1) For one thing, the right to write supplemental examinations in some faculties. On the other hand, those most likely to pass the supplementals will now get a 'D' and be able to keep the credit. The chances of passing a supplemental with an original mark of 35 percent are not very bright anyway.

2) Some precision in marking. However, with the values given to the pluses and minuses in the A and B range, those who wish to shine will have a chance to do so.

3) For the guy or gal who likes to slide by with the minimum - the minimum does edge up a bit each year, but this should not unduly worry those who make a reasonable effort. Most students improve over the years as they find their specialties.

What are you gaining by the change?

1) Most importantly, in my opinion, even although there are a few special twists to this system, it is very similar to the grade-point system used most widely in the United States, and by a fair number of universities in Canada. Even universities which do not use it are familiar with it, as are many employers, whereas percentage

required course, may be less crucial than under the present system. A 'D' will very probably meet the requirement, and a student who tries may compensate by above average marks in subjects he is better at. Although the marking system is different, the guiding principle is much the same as in the present Engineering and Forestry regulations. It's the overall average that matters.

SAFEGUARDS

There are several special provisions which may seem complicated, but are really added protection for students. These include -

Replacement of courses

With special permission, a student can replace courses (and this also includes repeating required courses) to a limited extent (in most faculties about 15 - 20 percent of the total number of credit hours), without having the original grade counted into the cumulative grade-point average. One or two failures (F's) need not, therefore, ruin your chances, provided that you do better thereafter. A student with good grades (A's and B's) might also wish to use this provision to replace D or even C grades.

In addition, without special permission, most faculties will allow students to retake courses, but in this case, both grades would be counted into the cumulative grade-point average.

Several provision for first-year students

Without going into details here, first year students who get off to a bad start may be allowed to take some or even all courses again to improve their average.

complete the degree will be assessed before you return in the fall. How then do we calculate your graduating division? If you are in the same division both in the years on percentage marks, and in the years on grade points, there is, of course, no problem. If you get different standings in different years, the marks and grades will be translated both ways, and you will get the benefit of whichever is higher. So you can't lose!

Academic Probation

If you fall below the cumulative grade-point average for one year, you will be placed on probation. You should probably then obtain advice about repeating or replacing courses. However, only if you fall below the required cumulative grade-point average for two years in a row can you be required to withdraw.

Review and Appeals

All adverse decisions are subject to review by the appropriate faculty committee, before being implemented, and then the student still has a right of appeal. This provides additional protection for the transitional stage.

Most of you will not need these safeguards. Reasonable effort in study should enable you to meet, and hopefully exceed the minimum standards.

The actual requirements for the degrees are not greatly changed in most faculties. You may find that the grade-point system, in fact, gives a fairer assessment of your total effort. In any case, there is a lot of protection built in.

Finally, for some of you, the familiar percentage marks (weighted or unweighted) may still appear on the transcript, as

Course	Credit Hours	Grade	Grade Points	Course	Credit Hours	Grade	Grade Points
Year 1				Year 2			
English 1000	6	B	18	History 2100	6	D	6
Economics 1000	6	C	12	Philosophy 2511	3	B	9
French 1200	6	D	6	Philosophy 2512	3	D	3
Philosophy 1000	6	B	6	Classics 1000	6	C	12
Anthropology 1000	6	F	0	Biology 1000	9	C	18
				Sociology 1000	6	B	18
30 54				33 66			
Cumulative Grade-Point Average $54 \div 30 = 1.80$				Cumulative Grade-Point Average $120 \div 63 = 1.90$			

marks vary so much that although they may look familiar, they may be misunderstood by others who are not familiar with UNB. Our percentage marks have tended to fall somewhat lower than those of many other institutions.

2) Competition may not be emphasized as much in the new grading system (again, my opinion).

3) Difficulty in one course, particularly a

Transition provisions

As already stated, in 1974-75 all students, regardless of year, will have a minimum of 1.5 required.

Previous marks, before September 1974, will not be translated into letter grades. The number of credit hours needed to

well as the new grades. This is likely in Engineering and Science, and might happen in others.

These are only a few pointers. Next Thursday evening there is a chance to learn more and ask questions at the SRC forum. A lot more information will be sent to you with your marks. You can also write in to me, or to your own faculty with questions.

Signed: A LIBERATED ACADIAN

**Bruns party this
Saturday
at 8 pm.**

French minority gets short end of the stick again

Dear Sir:

Our provincial politicians have played a game of "now you see it, now you don't" with the French cultural center. The French minority got the short end of the stick once again.

The reason the federal government does kick in one million dollars in the project are 1) That it be for public use and 2) because Fredericton is the capital of a bilingual province. I feel that neither of these conditions have

been fulfilled. First, contrary to previous plans it is now intended to be "principally and foremost a school" and thus not primarily for public use. Second, it is because Fredericton is the capital of a bilingual province. The center was supposed to make the resident and visiting Acadians feel at home in the capital and also provide a milieu conducive to the evolution and preservation of the French language and culture. But instead, Education Minister McGuigan states: "This center is not built for

a race or a language".

The declaration made by Mr. McGuigan was worded very carefully as to make it ambiguous enough and thus safe from attacks. But the stand taken by the Conservative Government of New Brunswick is clear in my mind. It has said NO to any attempts at preserving the minority culture. It is indeed bowing to the pressures of those crying and screaming for assimilation. Of course we did get a much needed French school. But it only slows down the process of

assimilation until a person is out of school. What happens to French speaking adults who move into this area?

Let's look at the facts. The Acadian culture is being assimilated at an alarming rate. The rate of assimilation in New Brunswick has passed from 4.2 percent in 1941, to 13 percent in 1961, to its present rate of 17.6 percent. If this accelerated assimilation continues we can safely predict the disappearance of the Acadian culture before the end of this

century. Are we suppose to sit back and not say a word? Like hell we are!

Plans for campus, Xa expert profes labor troubl events on 73-74.

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