

MCGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

3

in the first two years, may be admitted to Full Honors work in a single department at the beginning of the Third Year.

i) Any candidate for honors who is conditioned in any subject, or fails to maintain a general average or at least second class, during the Third Year shall revert to the ordinary course except by special permission of the Faculty.

j) Departments shall be at full liberty, etc., as is.

The above suggested requirements are fairly severe, but even those for First Class Honors in a single subject, the sturriest of the lot, are not quite up to the requirements already in force for the degree with Great Distinction in the General Course. It seems to me extremely important that we should put an absolute stop to the taking of honors courses by students of moderate ability as a means of escaping the difficulties of the general course. Since honors courses are an anticipation of graduate training, admission to them ought to be based upon positive fitness, and ought not to interfere with the breadth of training that is necessary for success in any profession. First class students may be expected to get what they need in this respect, to some extent, by outside study, and so will not suffer so much by being allowed to specialize early in formal courses. Students of less capacity cannot afford to specialize so narrowly. The above attempts to establish an appropriate gradation. The general postponement to Third Year would be of advantage to the building up of teacher training by the Department of Education, as avoiding all complications in regard to the granting of certificates to honor students. Again, with courses prescribed as at present, students have no opportunity to become acquainted with some of the leading branches of collegiate study until the second year. So it is not fair to such departments, nor, what is more important, to the students themselves, to permit the selection of a field for specialization until the students have had a sufficiently wide range of studies on which to base a decision. Especially is this true, in view of the fact that our system of advising freshmen is concerned almost entirely with rescuing the perishing; does not, and in fact could not deal with the selection of continuation courses, as that should be done with regard only to the interests and capacities of students, not to the desire of departments to increase enrolment; and we have no personnel office.

These are the points in which I am most interested. We surely need more scholarships, especially a number of graduate scholarships. Music and Art were already provided for, and it might well be inquired why the department vanished. I will not attempt more discussion, but would appreciate inclusion of these suggestions in the report from this department.

Yours sincerely,

Chester E. Kelly