Criteria & Policy Followed in Assigning Letter Grades in General Physics Courses **Guldad Khattak** 15 May 2005 **Department of Physics, KFUPM** Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

OUTLINE

- LLF Format & Common Exams
- The Old Grading Policy
- Its Disadvantages
- The Current Grading System: Motivation
- Detailed Description of the Current System
- Advantages of the current System

<u>The Teaching System</u>
LLF (3 sections in each LLF)

Coordinated Courses

Common MC Exams

The Old Grading System

- Analysis of the Exams and Minimum score for the two letter grades "F" & "A"
- Analysis of the histogram by Instructors & suggest break points
- The remaining letter grades are decided by shifting equally (a compromise between the histogram and Instructors analysis.
- Many factors are taken into account.

Disadvantages of the old system:

- Students don't know in advance the relation between grades and letter grades.
- There is always delay in posting the grades.
- Depends on the group of Instructors teaching the course and the coordinator. (It is not fair)

Motivation for The Current Grading System

- Statistics for Phys 101(LG, BP, GPA, & δ) for 971-001:
 - i) A ranged between 75 & 77
 - ii) F ranged between 41 & 43

iii) GPA between 2.26 to 2.44



 In the light of the above, Dr. Nagadi (Ex-Chairman) felt that the Dept. has enough expertise and experience to set uniform standard of exams to standardize the procedure for arriving at the letter grades.

The Current system:

A+ ≥ 80	80 > A ≥ 77
77 > B⁺ ≥ 73	73 > B ≥ 67
67 > C⁺ ≥ 60	60 > C ≥ 53
53 > D⁺ ≥ 47	47 > D ≥ 41

- F < 41
- i) 10% for Class Work (avg. = 6)
 ii) 20% for Lab (avg. = 14)
 iii) 20% for First Major I
 iv) 20% for Second Major
 - v) 30 % for Final

Advantages of the current system (i) Standard Exams

(ii) Students know in advance about their grade

(iii) It is fair

(iv) Students don't have to wait for the results

(v) More than 90% of the students like it

(iv) The current policy does not introduce any drastic changes.



Thank you



