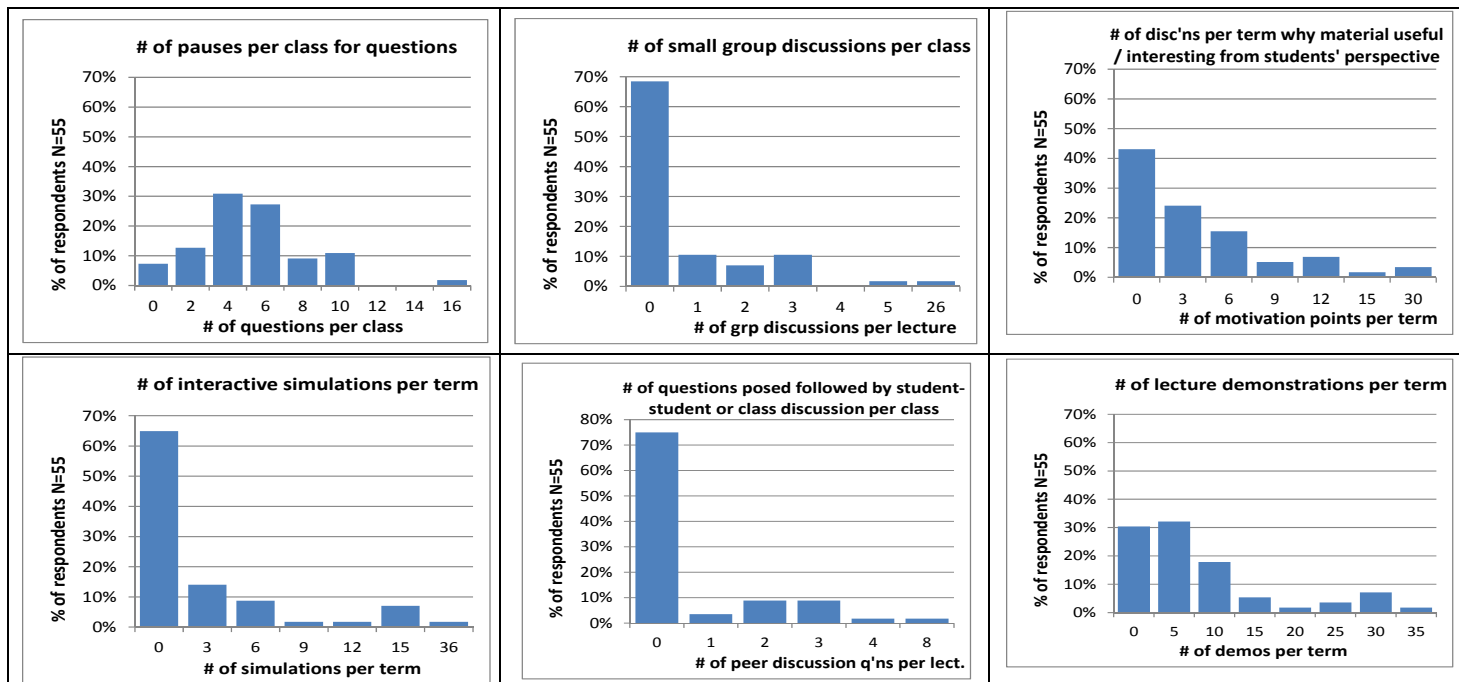


## So what actually goes on during EOAS classes?

>> Or, what was happening in classes in 2007 and what is happening in classes now? <<

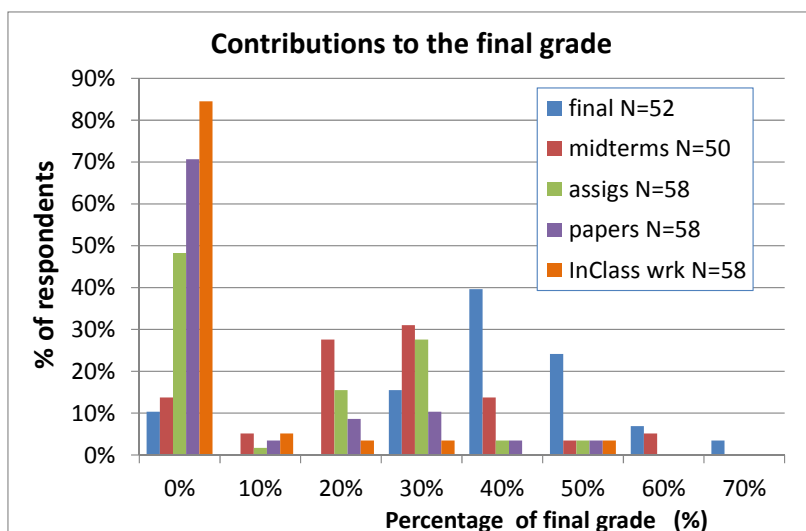
In 2007, just as the department was embarking on the EOS-Science Education Initiative, the CWSEI Teaching Practices Survey was administered in our Department. Close to sixty EOAS teaching faculty responded to this survey (thanks everyone!), and results were compiled. A few examples of these results are given here.



These early results were useful for helping identify how common various practices were at that time. However now is the time for the interesting part – to what extent have teaching practices evolved in five years of this initiative?

To answer this question, a similar questionnaire will be run November 2012 to establish a new snapshot 5 years after start of CWSEI.

EOAS has been a leader in the CWSEI effort, and we anticipate support from everyone in this crucial component assessing the impact of CWSEI funds on our department.



### IN ADDITION TO THE TEACHING PRACTICES SURVEY

Self-reporting from individual instructors via the Teaching Practices Survey is a good start, but it is also important to observe and characterize what goes on in classrooms. Not to judge quality – but to simply describe, without judgment, what instructors do and what students do. This is basic, raw data necessary for maintaining and improving our teaching.

Again, EOAS is setting the standards within CWSEI. During the spring 2012 term, a preliminary observations procedure was developed, with examples of outcomes shown in figures below. These data are simply descriptive. They do not indicate good, bad or indifferent teaching or learning. But collecting useful data is an important first step to acting in a scientific, evidence-oriented manner when maintaining or improving courses.



Now, CWSEI has chosen to pilot a modified version of this observation procedure in all departments of the Faculty of Science. Many classes will be observed, some with two or more observers, in an exercise aimed at refining the procedure so that it is efficient, reproducible, and provides information that is useful.

Therefore, if asked, please welcome observers to your class this term, so that we can complete the development of this instrument, and begin exploring ways of displaying, analyzing and using results in research and development of courses and curricula. Thanks!

**Contact EOS-SEI:** Talk about your course(s) or teaching and learning in general! Visit EOS-South 361, or contact Francis ([fjones@eos.ubc.ca](mailto:fjones@eos.ubc.ca)), Brett ([bgilley@eos.ubc.ca](mailto:bgilley@eos.ubc.ca)) or Sara ([sharris@eos.ubc.ca](mailto:sharris@eos.ubc.ca)). See also <http://www.eos.ubc.ca/research/cwsei/>.