

- Overview of Presentation
- Introduction of Presentators
- Wilfrid Laurier University
- Literature on Peer Helpers and Retention
- Description of Programs at Wilfrid Laurier University
- Conclusion

- Julie Pong, Academic Advisor, Faculty of Arts
- Ray Darling, Registrar

- Wilfrid Laurier University – Founded in 1911



- 14,026 full-time 2,628 part-time
- Multi-Campus University
- 58.6% female 41.4% male
- 80% of incoming class live on residence
- Mostly from Southwestern Ontario
- Relatively affluent

- Largely English speaking
- Entering average of 81.9% in 2008
- Comprehensive program offerings

- Retention rate from first year to second year in 2007 – 88.9%
- Graduate rate in 2005 – 79.3%

- Literature Review
- T. Newcombe – College Peer Groups
- T. Newcombe – Student Peer Group Influence
- Astin and Panos – Progressive Conformity

- Astin – The student's peer group is the single most potent source of influence on growth and development during the undergraduate years

- Why use the Peer Helper Model?
 - Increase persistence rates
 - Improving study skills and study habits
 - Engaging our future alumni

- Making it Happen....
 -in 1 month's time
 -means believing that it will work
 -requires staying connected

- S.T.A.R. – Students Taking Academic Responsibility
 - 1st year incoming students who have a high school average < 75%
- BOOST
 - 1st year students who have struggled academically in their first term at Laurier
- Take 2
 - Students currently on academic probation

- All programs are:
 - 'Free' to participants
 - Voluntary
 - Volunteer driven
 - Notation on Co-Curricular Record
 - < \$2,000 cost to Faculty

- Take 2
 - Fall 2009 – April 2010
 - 230 students invited
 - 75 registered
 - 55 completed the program
 - 3 students who raised their GPA the most were awarded \$1,000 towards tuition

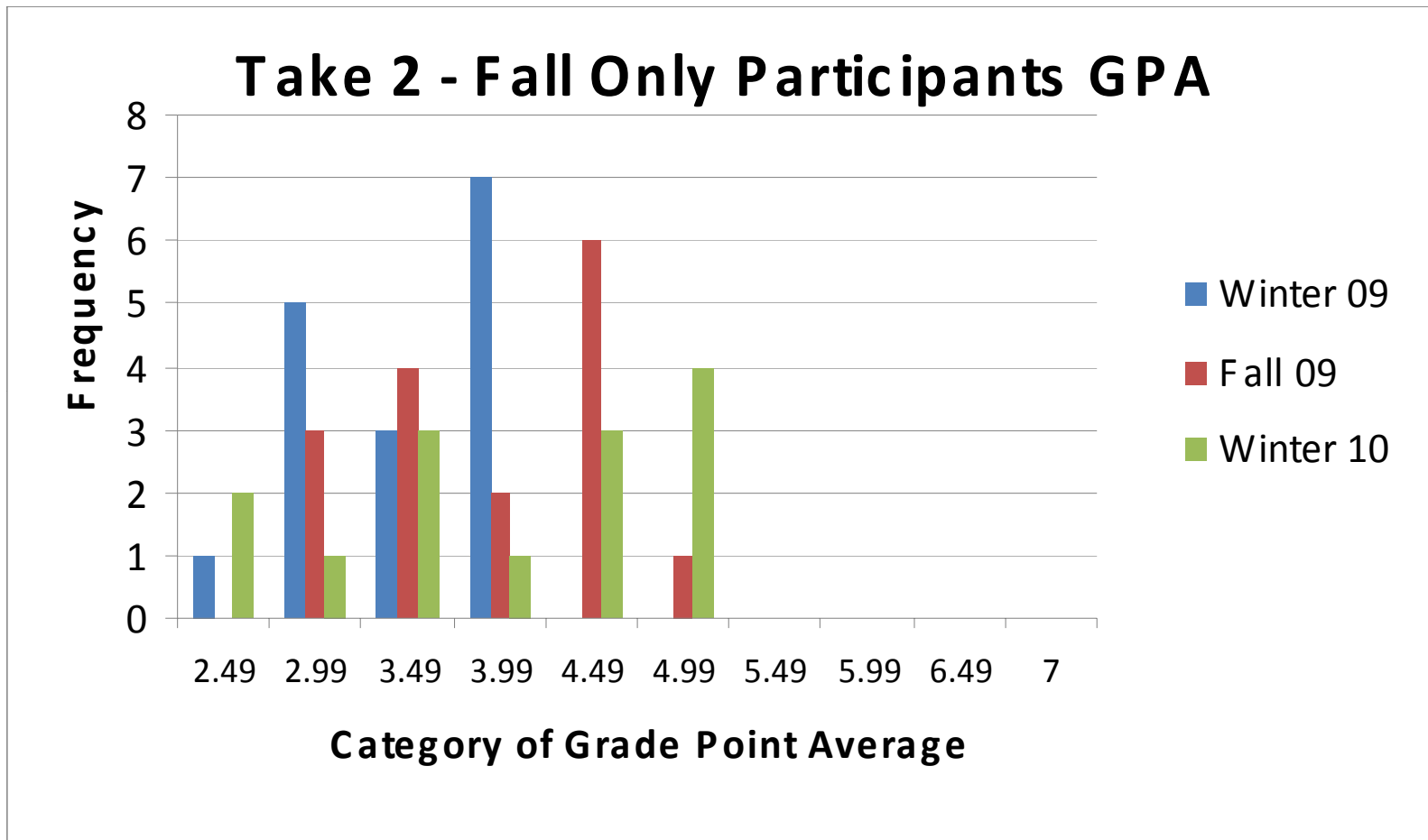
- Take 2
 - Weekly 1.5 hour meetings
 - Time management, goal setting, study skills, mid-term / final exam preparation, writing workshop
 - 45 min. of discussion time, 45 min. of study time

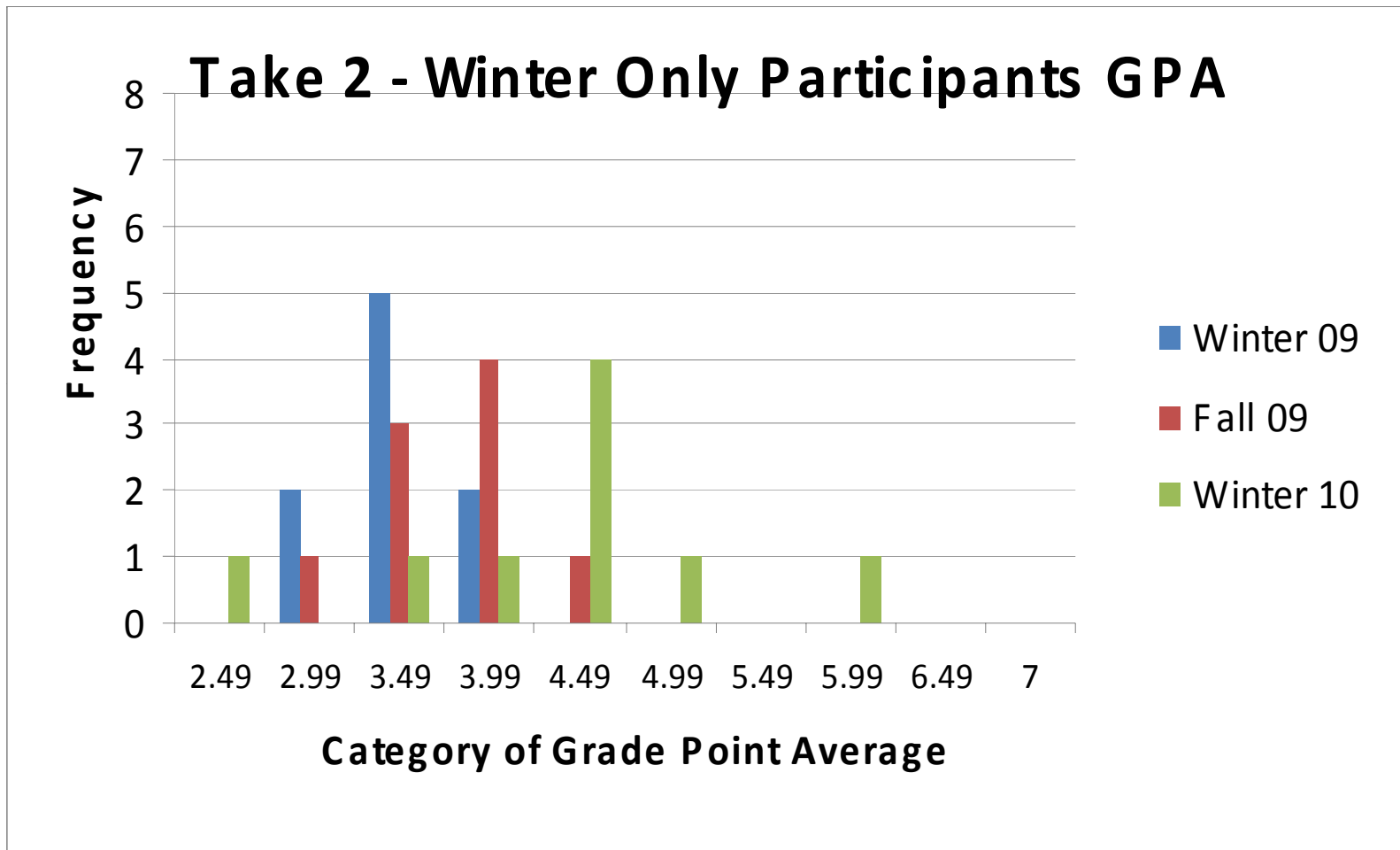
- Take 2
 - Meeting with an Academic Advisor
 - Attendance at a social with the Dean, Associate Dean, Faculty, Academic Advisors and Mentors
 - One-on-one session with the Writing Centre

- Take 2 – Qualitative Results
 - “It was a very personal, relatable experience that gave me a lot of confidence to do well this semester and I feel also for the rest of my university career.”
 - “I liked setting goals for the semester.”
 - “It keeps me on track and focused.”
 - “Taking the time to figure out what study habits work best for me. And also meeting every week to maintain motivation”

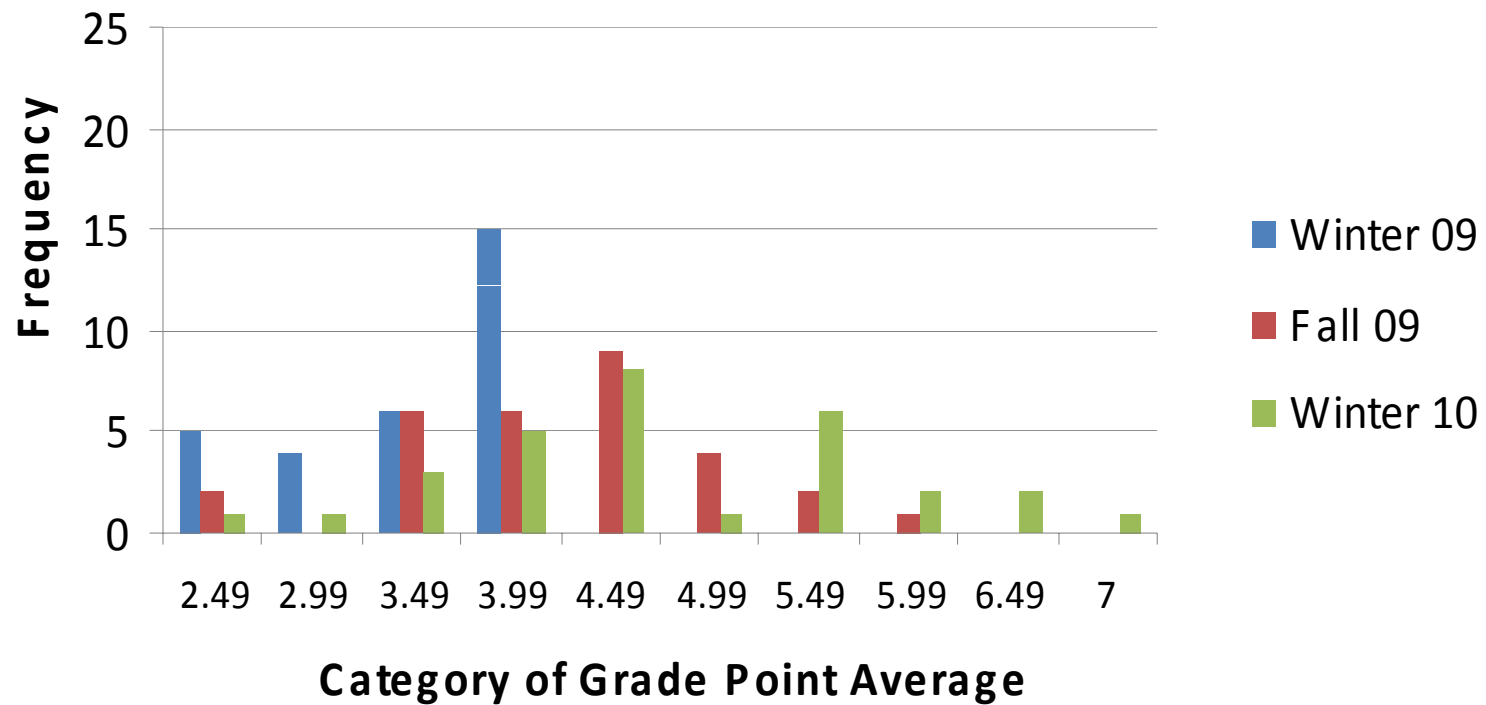
- Take 2 – Qualitative Results
 - “Not enough time with mentor.”
 - “Honestly, I have been very impressed with Take 2, it has helped me a lot this semester and I look forward to doing it again. There is nothing I can say I enjoyed the least.”
 - “Repetitive”

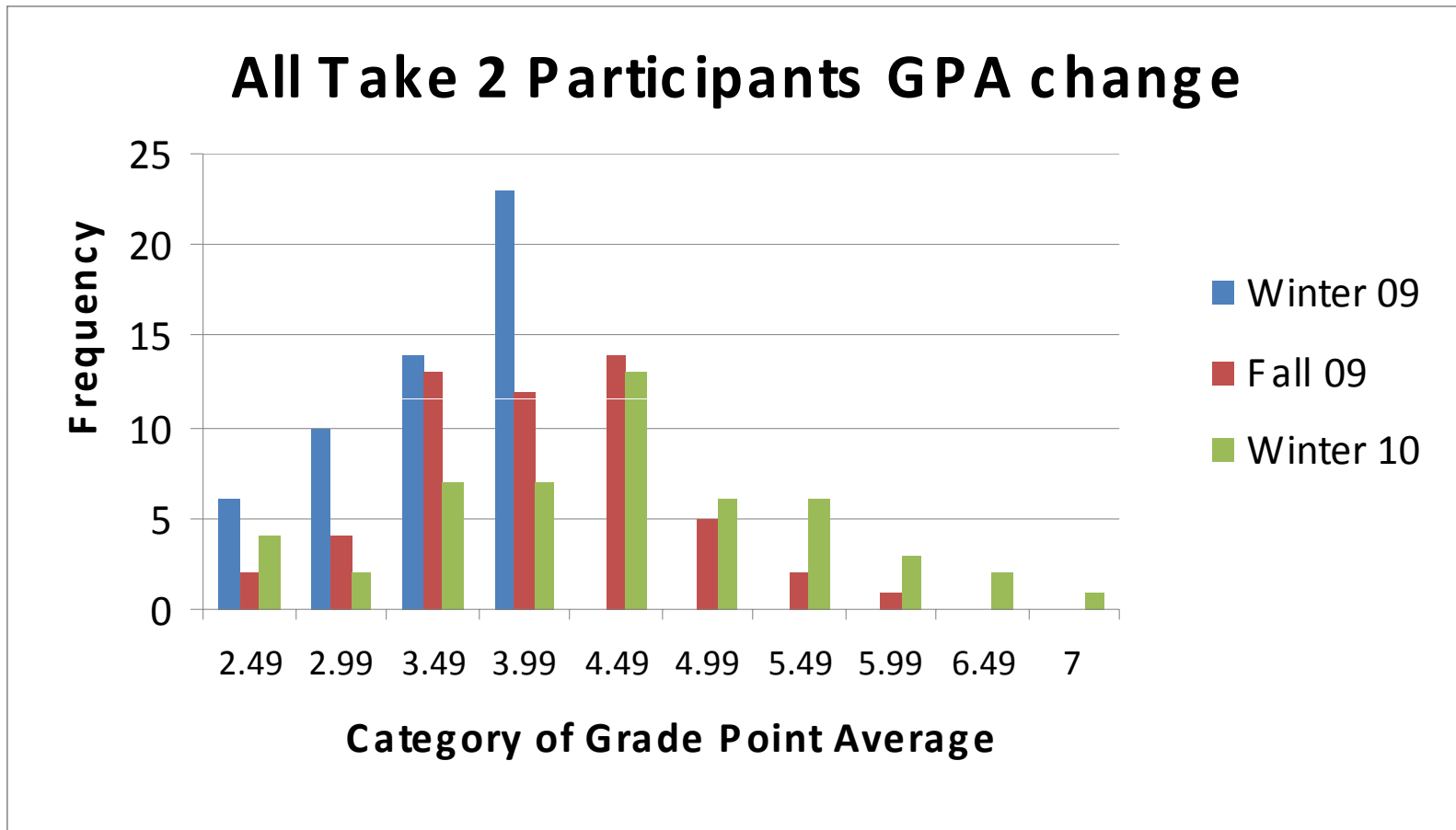
- Take 2 – Qualitative Results
 - “This term has provided me with many different ideas about study habits, more than I would have thought of on my own.”
 - “Made my negatives from 1st year become positives in 2nd year. I don’t know if I could have done it without the program.”
 - “Your mentors were really well chosen and relatable”

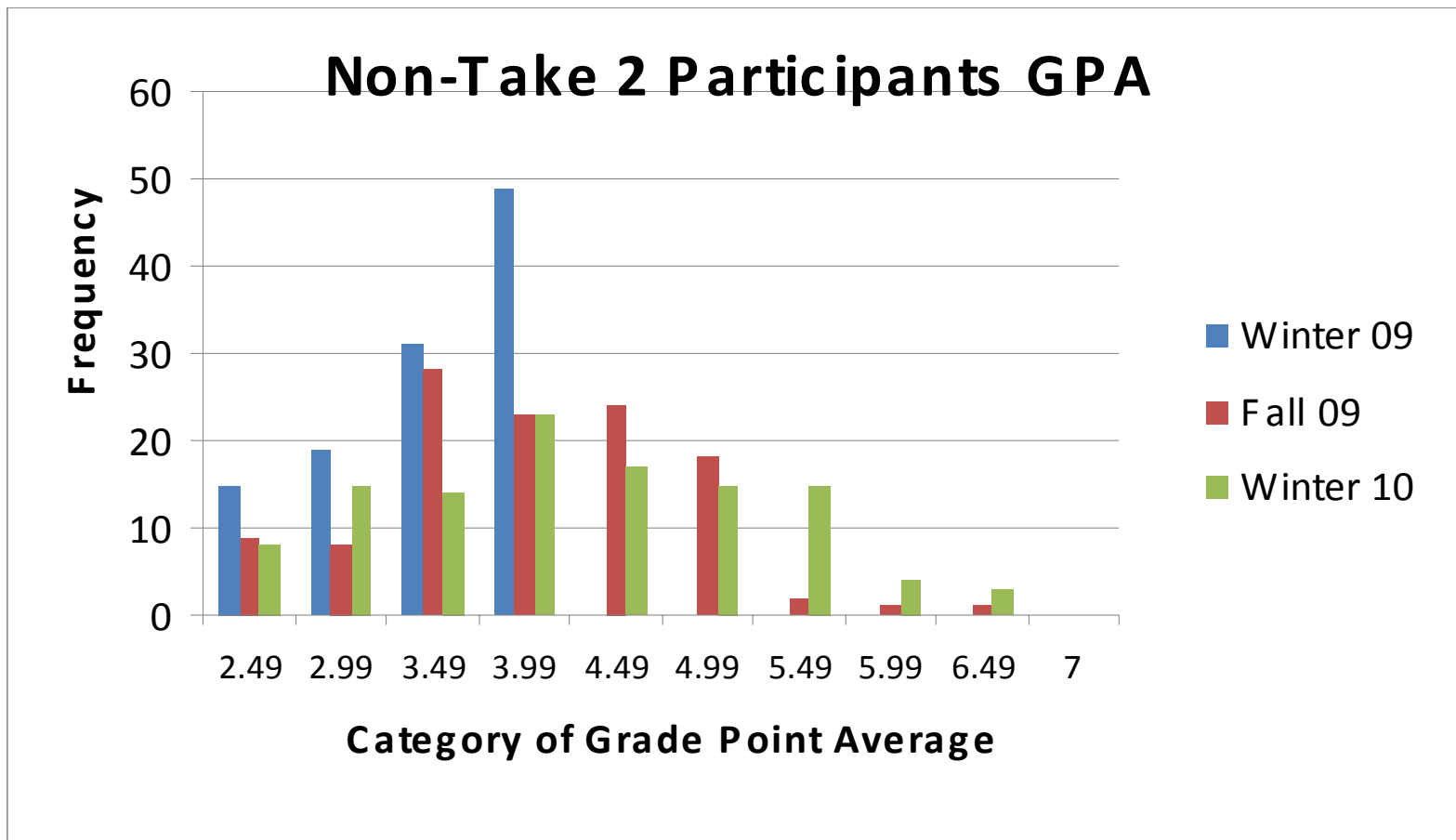




Take 2 - Fall and Winter GPA change







GPA difference	Fall term only	Winter term only	Fall and Winter term
Take 2	0.49	0.53	1.03
Non-Take 2	0.52	0.22	N/A

	Total Number	Evaluated	Cleared	Must Withdraw
Take 2	55	38	27	11
Non-Take 2	124	77	47	30

- BOOST
 - President set up \$200,000 fund to support positive, forward thinking initiatives that had potential to produce new revenue and/or reduce the university's operating costs
 - Pilot program after one term success of Take 2

- BOOST
 - Winter 2010
 - 470 students invited
 - 115 registered
 - 68 completed the program
 - 3 students who raised their GPA the most were awarded \$1,000 towards tuition

	GPA difference	Probation	Must Withdraw
BOOST	0.97	35%	7%
Non-BOOST	0.72	36%	14%

- S.T.A.R
 - Fall 2010
 - Approximately 400 students invited
 - 25 students currently working with Mentors

- Program Challenges
 - Low take-up rate
 - Logistics
 - Lack of resources

- Program Highlights
 - “Participating in Take 2 is one of my all time favourite memories from Laurier so thank you so much again for helping me be a part of it! I hope it continues to grow and help as many students as possible.”
 - “I just wanted to wish you luck with BOOST and Take 2 this semester. I hope that lots of people want to be mentors, it was one of my favourite things to do last year!”

- One Year Snapshot
 - Retained revenue
 - Where are mentors are now
 - Spanish Mentorship Program

➤ Conclusion