



June 4, 2014

To: Jose Wudka
Chair, Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

Fr: Jack Eichler
Chair, Committee on Scholarships and Honors

Re: Revision to Standards for the Dean's Honor List

The Committee on Scholarships and Honors has reviewed the proposed revisions to the standards for the Dean's Honor List and supports the changes proposed by the UCR Deans with Undergraduate Majors and the VPUE. Accordingly, please find attached the proposed bylaw change in the correct format.

Jack Eichler 4/June/2014

COMMITTEE ON SCHOLARSHIPS AND HONORS
REPORT TO THE RIVERSIDE DIVISION

To be adopted:

Proposed Changes to Appendix 3 A

PRESENT:

A. Dean's Honor List and Chancellor's Honor List Standards* (Am 29 May 97)

The Dean's Honor List is awarded quarterly based upon the completion of a minimum of ~~42 letter-graded units~~ with a GPA of 3.5 or higher, with no grade in any course below a B, and no grade of NC or I (incomplete). Students who are placed on the Dean's Honor list for all three quarters in a single academic year (Fall, Winter, and Spring) will be placed on the Chancellor's Honor List for that academic year. (Am 27 May 82, effective fall quarter 1982) (Am 29 May 97) (Am 22 May 03)

*These amended standards were approved by the Academic Council for the Assembly of the Academic Senate 17 Nov 82.

JUSTIFICATIONS:

The Committee on Scholarships and Honors received a proposal from the UCR Deans with Undergraduate Majors (BCOE, CHASS, CNAS, SoBA, SPP) and the VPUE to amend the existing regulations to address challenges associated with undergraduate students enrolling in fewer average units per quarter, thereby undercutting graduation rates and time-to-graduation (attached). The Committee found their justification compelling and were supportive of their proposal.

Approvals:

Approved by the Committee on Scholarships and Honors:

PROPOSED:

A. Dean's Honor List and Chancellor's Honor List Standards* (Am 29 May 97)

The Dean's Honor List is awarded quarterly based upon the completion of a minimum of 15 enrolled units, of which 12 or more are graded with a GPA of 3.5 or higher, with no grade in any course below a B, and no grade of NC or I (incomplete). Students who are placed on the Dean's Honor list for all three quarters in a single academic year (Fall, Winter, and Spring) will be placed on the Chancellor's Honor List for that academic year. (Am 27 May 82, effective fall quarter 1982) (Am 29 May 97) (Am 22 May 03)

*These amended standards were approved by the Academic Council for the Assembly of the Academic Senate 17 Nov 82.

6/3/2014

Date: May 9, 2014

To: UCR Senate Committee on Scholarships and Honors (via Senate Chair Wudka)

From: UCR Deans with Undergraduate Majors (BCOE, CHASS, CNAS, SoBA, SPP) and the VPUE

CC: Chancellor Wilcox; EVC/P Rabenstein

Re: Proposed Revision of the Dean's Honor List Standards (UCR Senate Regulation 3.A)

As the Deans and the Vice Provost with responsibilities for undergraduate instruction at UC Riverside, we respectfully request that the Academic Senate consider amending the Dean's Honor List criteria. Currently UCR students need only enroll in a minimum of 12 letter graded units (along with meeting the other specified criteria).¹ UCR's recently completed *Graduation Rate Task Force Report* highlights serious challenges associated with the fact that undergraduates at UC Riverside enroll in the fewest average units per quarter in the UC system and the average unit load at UCR has been in decline over the last half-dozen years – trends that undercut our students' graduation rates and time-to-degree.² We are concerned that requiring only 12 units to be eligible for the Dean's Honor List sends the wrong message to our students (i.e., that 12 units constitutes satisfactory progress) and it creates a perverse incentive for a subset of accomplished UCR students who might otherwise choose to enroll in 15 or more units in a term instead of 12.

It is true that several other UC campuses have the same 12 unit requirement for their Dean's Lists, but that fact does not weigh against this proposal insofar as those other UC campuses frankly do not face the concomitant units-per-term, academic preparation and graduation rate challenges that are felt more acutely here at UCR. Moreover, examples of other campuses imposing a higher unit requirements for the Dean's Honor Lists include UC Berkeley's College of Letters & Science (requires 13 letter graded semester units³) and UC Santa Cruz (requires enrollment in at least 15 quarter units, of which at least 10 must be graded⁴).

In light of the above considerations, **we propose that 15 letter graded units be required in order to be eligible for the UCR Dean's Honor List (alternatively, we would also support requiring 15 enrolled units of which 12 or more are graded)**. We sincerely hope this proposal can be considered and then put forward for approval expeditiously in a manner consistent with the Code of the Academic Senate, including UC Senate Regulation 640. If the Committee on Scholarships and Honors has additional questions, Vice Provost Brint and/or a Dean can be available to discuss this matter further. Thank you.

¹ http://senate.ucr.edu/bylaws/?action=read_bylaws&code=app§ion=03.01.00.

² <http://chancellor.ucr.edu/docs/Graduation%20Rate%20Task%20Force%20Report%20January%2010%202014.pdf>

³ <http://ls-advise.berkeley.edu/honor/honorlist/intro.html>

⁴ <http://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/manual/appendix3.html>