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## MEMORANDUM

FOR INFORMATION

ATTENTION Senate  
FROM Stephen Easton, Chair,   
Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships,  
Awards and Bursaries  
RE: President's and Dean's Honour Rolls  
DATE February 8, 2010

At its meeting of February 8 2010 SPCSAB approved harmonizing the University's system of semester honour rolls.

**President's Honour Roll**

- a) the renaming of the University Honour Roll to the President's Honour Roll,
- b) the addition of the criteria that students enrolled in EDUC 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, or 406 not be eligible for admission to the President's Honour Roll for that semester,
- c) and the removal of the criteria that students obtain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.60 in that semester,

The criteria for the President's Honour Roll would be:

- Completion of a minimum of 30 units at SFU
- Completion of a minimum of 12 units in the semester being evaluated
- Minimum semester grade point average of 4.00
- Not enrolled in any of EDUC 401, 402, 403, 404, 405 or 406

This is to be effective for the Spring 2010 semester.

**Rationale**

The professional programs in the Faculty of Education consist largely of courses taken on a pass/withdraw basis. As this makes selection via GPA impossible, students enrolled in their professional program semesters will not be eligible for the honour roll. In all other semesters, students enrolled in Faculty of Education programs will be eligible. Renaming the University Honour Roll to the President's Honour Roll presents a clear delineation from the Dean's Honour Roll proposal below. If we left the name as is, it would be unclear which honour is considered higher. The removal of the cumulative GPA criteria would ensure the honour roll is an award that recognizes success in a given semester, regardless of how students fared in previous semester. Overall academic success would be recognized by students being granted degree standing.

**Dean's Honour Roll**

- a) creation of a Dean's Honour Roll for each faculty, with identical criteria to the President's Honour Roll except that students are required to have a semester GPA at or above 3.50 but below 4.00, to be similarly shown on the student's permanent record, effective for the Spring 2010 semester.

The criteria for the Dean's Honour Rolls would be:

- Completion of a minimum of 30 units at SFU
- Completion of a minimum of 12 units in the semester being evaluated
- Semester grade point average of 3.50 to 4.00
- Not enrolled in any of EDUC 401, 402, 403, 404, 405 or 406

**Rationale**

There are currently a number of Dean's honour rolls within faculties that are maintained completely external to the University's Student Information Management System. These Dean's honour rolls have varying standards, and there is little consistent practice between them, and no consistency between them and the University Honour Roll -- students could easily be on both, one, or neither.

This system is far from ideal. Should a potential employer or graduate school contact Student Services we would have no way to verify that a student was on a Dean's honour roll. As well, the differences in practice between the different honour rolls and the lack of a Dean's honour roll in some faculties means many exceptional students receive no recognition at all. Finally, as the Dean's honour rolls are external to SIMS, they are not currently recorded on transcripts, official or otherwise.

The honour rolls should be viewed as part of the University's retention strategy. The acknowledgement of outstanding student success is one factor which can make students feel like valued members of the academic community, and make them more likely to complete their program. The current differences in business rules and lack of acknowledgement means the honour rolls are much less effective as a retention strategy than they could be.

This proposal will tie the President's and Dean's Honour Rolls together into a coherent, two-tiered system, properly recorded, and automated. Students may receive standing on a single honour roll each semester, and the University will be able to celebrate their exceptional students.