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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Senate	DATE	January 11, 2010
FROM	Bill Krane, Chair	PAGES	1/1
RE:	Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies Degree Standing (SCUS 10- 07)		

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Bill Krane".

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of January 7, 2010, gives rise to the following recommendation:

Motion:

That Senate approve the removal of the designation of First Class Honours, and the introduction of the designations "with merit" and "with distinction," with requirements as outlined in the attached documents and attendant calendar changes, effective for students graduating from the Fall 2009 semester onward. These designations will be recognized for first degrees only.



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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies
FROM Kate Ross,
Registrar & Senior Director, Student Enrolment
RE: Degree Standing

DATE January 27, 2010
PAGES 1 of 2

After consulting with the Deans' Council and members of the University community, Registrar & Student Enrolment Services is proposing to implement a system of degree standing designations to recognize high achievement by students throughout their undergraduate career at SFU.

Motion:

that SCUS approve and recommend to Senate the removal of the designation of *First Class Honours*, and the introduction of the designations "with merit" and "with distinction," with requirements as outlined below and attendant calendar changes, effective for students graduating from the Fall 2009 semester forward.

Requirements

The designations "with merit" and "with distinction" would be available to all undergraduate students graduating with a degree. A grade point average of 4.00 or greater would be required on all of a student's course work (CGPA) and all their upper division course work (UDGPA) in order to be granted "with distinction". A GPA of 3.50 or greater but less than 4.00 on the CGPA and UDGPA is required in order to be granted "with merit."

Rationale

The current designation of *First Class Honours* is only available to students completing an honours program, and is tied to a student's program GPA as well as their overall GPA. The University has a large number of students graduating each year with high GPAs from major programs and departments without honours programs, and these students are not currently recognized in any way.

The proposed changes would extend a degree designation to all high-performing undergraduate students graduating with a degree, regardless of the route taken to obtain the degree. It also removes the program GPA requirements, recognizing instead overall success in all courses and upper division courses taken at the University.

New Calendar Entry

Existing calendar entries referring to First Class Honours will be eliminated. The following entry will be added:

Degree Standing

(Undergraduate – Student Enrolment)

Students graduating with a first undergraduate degree may be awarded a designation based on their overall course work (CGPA) as well as the upper division subset of that work (UDGPA).

Students who have obtained a GPA of 4.00 or greater on both the CGPA and UDGPA will receive the designation "with distinction." This designation recognizes outstanding excellence by students throughout their academic career.

Students who have obtained a GPA of 3.50 or greater but less than 4.00 on both the CGPA and UDGPA will receive the designation "with merit." This designation recognizes proven academic ability and accomplishment.

These designations have replaced First Class Honours for students graduating after the 2009 Summer semester.

Possible Variations and Requirements

Degree and Designation	Cumulative GPA	Cumulative Upper-Division GPA
Honours Degree with Distinction	4.00-4.33	4.00-4.33
Honours Degree with Merit	3.50-3.99	3.50-3.99
Honours Degree	3.00-3.49	3.00-3.49
Degree with Distinction	4.00-4.33	4.00-4.33
Degree with Merit	3.50-3.99	3.50-3.99
Degree	2.00-3.49	2.00-3.49