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**MEMORANDUM**

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**ATTENTION** Senate

**DATE** March 15, 2010

**FROM** Stephen Easton, Chair,   
Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships,  
Awards and Bursaries

**RE:** President's and Dean's Honour Rolls

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At its meeting of March 15 2010 SPCSAB revised criteria for the University's system of term honour rolls. Details of the changes are attached for Senate's information.



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**MEMORANDUM**

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**ATTENTION** Senate Policy Committee on Scholarships,  
Awards and Bursaries  
**DATE** March 9, 2010  
**FROM** Kate Ross  
Registrar & Senior Director, Student Enrolment  
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**RE:** President's and Dean's Honour Rolls

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After consulting with the Deans' Council, faculty groups and members of the University community, Registrar and Student Enrolment Services is proposing to harmonize the University's system of semester honour rolls.

**Motion #1:**

- that SPCSAB approve
- 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,
- effective for the Spring 2010 semester.

**Rationale**

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 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.

The removal of the cumulative GPA criteria ensures 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 (this proposal is currently before Senate). It should be noted that cumulative GPA has not been used in determining honour roll standing since 1988, though no documentation has been found to support the change in policy at that time.

With this motion, 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

**Motion #2:**

that SPCSAB approve the 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, to be similarly shown on the student's permanent record, effective for the Spring 2010 semester.

## **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.

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 practices and lack of acknowledgement means the honour rolls are much less effective as a retention strategy than they could be.

This proposal will harmonize the criteria for the President's and Dean's Honour Rolls together into a coherent system that is properly recorded and automated, allowing the University to celebrate these exceptional students. Students on the President's Honour Roll would also be on the Dean's Honour Roll.

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
- Minimum semester grade point average of 3.50
- Not enrolled in any of EDUC 401, 402, 403, 404, 405 or 406