

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST BAY**

Designation Code: **06-07 BEC 3**

Date Submitted: October 5, 2006

TO: The Academic Senate  
FROM: Executive Committee  
SUBJECT: Change of Policy on Dean's List and Honor's List  
PURPOSE: Action by the Academic Senate

**ACTION**

REQUESTED: That the Academic Senate approve the following revision of the University Policy governing inclusion on the Dean's List and Honor's List effective Fall 2007:

Undergraduate students who achieve academic distinction in any academic quarter, as evidenced by a grade point average of 3.80 or higher in 12 units or more in addition to any units graded CR/NC will be included on the Dean's List for that quarter. Students with a grade point average in the range of 3.60-3.79 will be included on the Honor's List for that quarter. Recognition of these honors will be posted to the student transcript for each quarter that the student is on the list. Students who received Dean's List recognition during any of the preceding four quarters will be recognized at the Honors Convocation.

**BACKGROUND**

INFORMATION: University policy defines criteria for inclusion on the Dean's and Honor's Lists. A separate policy, not affected by this action, governs the award of honors at graduation (cum laude, magna cum laude, summa cum laude). This action will change Dean's and Honors List recognition from an academic year basis to a quarterly basis, which was the policy before 1980, and will restore the number of units needed to qualify to those required before 1980. Grade point average requirements are not being changed.

Prior to Fall 1980, the policy defined criteria for quarterly recognition based on a minimum of 12 graded units. Beginning in Fall 1980 the policy was redefined as an academic year recognition. To qualify, the student was required to complete a minimum of 24 graded units over the academic year. It was not necessary for a student to enroll in each quarter to complete a minimum number of units so long as they accumulated a minimum of 24 graded units. Recognition was posted to transcripts following Spring quarter whether or not the student was enrolled in Spring quarter. Beginning in Fall 1996 the policy was further modified to redefine the academic year as Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter. Recognition is now posted to the student transcripts following the Winter quarter, which permits recognition of Dean's List students at Honors Convocation.

The People Soft Administration staff last Spring called the Executive Committee's attention to a conflict between the People Soft student module and our honors policy. All but two CSU campuses (San Jose and East Bay) award honors each term based on the GPA earned in that term. The CSU has made modifications in People Soft that assist with the calculations of GPA for honors each term. However, further modification would be needed to make the software compatible with an academic year honors calculation and the costs of this modification – and of reinstalling it in all future upgrades of the software – would be significant and must be borne by the campus.

At its October 3 meeting the Executive Committee discussed this situation. Although members of the committee are concerned about curricular and instructional changes being driven by software changes and financial considerations, there was agreement that the policy, unchanged for a decade, was worthy of review on academic grounds as well. The committee concluded that there were no academic reasons not to restore the policy to what it had been before 1980 and to what 21 of 23 CSU campuses do. It was also noted that students whose work excels in a given quarter will benefit and some members of the committee wondered why the academic year policy had been adopted in the first place.

This was approved by an email vote of the Executive Committee to place on the Senate agenda.