TO: The Academic Senate

FROM: Committee on Instruction and Curriculum

SUBJECT: Honors Policy

PURPOSE: For Action by the Academic Senate

ACTION REQUESTED: That the Academic Senate approve the Honors Policy below; effective Fall 2011.

CSUEB GRADUATION WITH HONORS POLICY:

Candidates for the baccalaureate degree may be eligible for the awarding of university honors at the time of graduation if they have fulfilled the following conditions: 1) They must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.65 or higher in all coursework and in coursework completed at Cal State East Bay. 2) They must have completed at least 60 quarter-units of coursework in residence (as defined in the university catalog) at Cal State East Bay.

summa cum laude (cumulative GPA, overall and at CSUEB, of 3.85-4.00)
magna cum laude (cumulative GPA, overall and at CSUEB, of 3.75-3.84)
cum laude (cumulative GPA, overall and at CSUEB, of 3.65-3.74)

The GPA is officially calculated at the time the student has completed graduation requirements. The honors designation will be noted on the student's diploma and official transcript. The conditions noted above apply equally to second-baccalaureate degree candidates. Post-baccalaureate and graduate students are not eligible for university honors.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: At its meeting on November 15, CIC voted to approve the attached Honors Policy. A survey of the graduation honors policies at other (mostly CSU) campuses was reviewed by CIC and is also provided as information to the Senate.

CIC was asked, at the beginning of the Fall Quarter, to examine the current policy on graduation honors and to suggest changes if appropriate. The current CSUEB policy ensures that the top 1% of those graduating in the years this catalog is in effect receive summa cum laude designation, the top 3% receive at least magna cum laude designation, and the top 8% receive at least cum laude designation. GPA boundaries are currently 3.93 for summa, 3.84 for magna, and 3.67 for cum laude. The boundaries have been updated periodically in past years. CIC also examined the policy at several of our sister campuses, and a couple of others, and has decided to request a change to simplify and ‘fix’ our policy. We believe that having a fixed GPA for these honors reduces the uncertainty that students currently face, with a system that 'adjusts' the GPA, levels from time to time. (Such changes are even more annoying because the awarding of graduation honors is based on the 'policy' operative at the time of graduation.)
POLICIES (Selected CSU and Other)

San Jose State

Criteria used to determine honors at graduation are those in effect as of the date of graduation. **Summa Cum Laude** is awarded to those students achieving a cumulative grade point average in all university and college work and a cumulative grade point average in all work undertaken at SJSU of not less than 3.85.

**Magna Cum Laude** is awarded to those students achieving a cumulative grade point average in all university and college work and a cumulative grade point average in all work undertaken at SJSU of not less than 3.70.

**Cum Laude** is awarded to those students achieving a cumulative grade point average in all university and college work and a cumulative grade point average in all work undertaken at SJSU of not less than 3.50.

San Francisco State

Honors are granted with the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Music, and Bachelor of Science. For students who entered the university beginning Fall 1996, honors are based on the cumulative grade point average (GPA) at the time of graduation (across all units attempted, whether in residence or transferred from other institutions). The level of honors granted is determined by the grade point average earned in all university and college work attempted according to the following scale:

- A student whose GPA is 3.50-3.69 shall graduate **cum laude**.
- A student whose GPA is 3.70-3.84 shall graduate **magna cum laude**.
- A student whose GPA is 3.85 or greater shall graduate **summa cum laude**.

**Note:** in the calculation of honors, GPA is not rounded up and is based on the actual student GPA.

Sonoma State

The University prepares a tentative honors list for designating potential honors (Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Summa Cum Laude) in April of each year for all undergraduate graduation applicants who have both a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.50 and a minimum SSU residence GPA of 3.50, and who have completed 40 letter-graded units in residence at SSU at the time the list is prepared. This list will be used to publish the honors designations in the Commencement Brochure. (Note: 45 letter-graded units in residence at SSU are required to receive honors at graduation/degree awarding.)
Sacramento State

Honors at Graduation are awarded to Sacramento State bachelor’s degree graduates who complete a minimum of 30 graded units in residence with a qualifying grade point average.

Honors are awarded based on the following grade point average ranges:

Cum Laude: 3.50-3.749
Magna Cum Laude: 3.75-3.899
Summa Cum Laude: 3.90-4.000

For posting of honors on the transcript, the GPA calculation will include all Sacramento State coursework, including the final semester. Second bachelor’s degree graduates are not eligible for Honors at Graduation.

San Diego State

Graduation With Honors and Distinction

Graduation with honors is granted to undergraduate students who achieve high grade point averages. Excellence is recognized at three levels:

- **cum laude** (3.50-3.64)
- **magna cum laude** (3.65-3.79)
- **summa cum laude** (3.80-4.00)

For determination of eligibility, two grade point averages are computed; both must satisfy the minimum grade point average for appropriate honors designation. They are the GPA calculated on all units taken at this institution (a minimum of 24 graded units), and the overall (cumulative) grade point average (including both SDSU and transfer units).

Grades for the final semester’s work are included in calculation of eligibility for graduation with honors. Students are tentatively designated as eligible for graduation with honors if both grade point averages meet required standards at the beginning of the fall semester for midyear graduates and at the end of the fall semester for May and summer term graduates. Notation of **cum laude, magna cum laude, or summa cum laude** on transcripts and diplomas is based on achievement when all courses for graduation are completed.

Upon recommendation of their major department, students doing superior work in their major field may be graduated with distinction in that field. To qualify for Distinction in the Major, a student must have a minimum 3.50 grade point average in the major (upper division courses) by the beginning of the fall semester for midyear graduates and by the end of the fall semester for May and summer term graduates. Departments may set a higher GPA or additional criteria.

To be considered for computation of the major grade point average, grades for removal of Incomplete and all other grade changes must be received in the Office of the Registrar no later than the end of the fifth week of the semester in which the student plans to graduate. All changes for summer term graduates must be received by the end of the fifth week of the spring semester prior to graduation.
CSU Fullerton

Honors designations at graduation are awarded to baccalaureate recipients based on overall performance and have been defined by the Academic Senate in three classifications:

- **cum laude**: GPA 3.50 - 3.74
- **magna cum laude**: GPA 3.75 - 3.89
- **summa cum laude**: GPA 3.90 - 4.00

CSU Long Beach

The following grade-point average criteria are used to identify undergraduate students eligible for the honors specified:

1. Equal to or greater than 3.95 graduated Summa Cum Laude
2. Equal to or greater than 3.8 but less than 3.95 graduated Magna Cum Laude
3. Equal to or greater than 3.5 but less than 3.8 graduated Cum Laude

An undergraduate student may be considered eligible for honors at graduation provided that a minimum of 45 units are earned at California State University, Long Beach. For the first baccalaureate degree, the GPA will be determined from units earned at CSULB plus transferred units. For the second baccalaureate degree, the GPA will be determined only by courses taken after the first degree was awarded.

With the approval of the Dean of the College, departments may elect to award departmental honors to their graduates based on GPA and/or other criteria determined by the department. The number of honors awarded by a department will be limited to three students or five percent of graduates, whichever is larger.

University honors will be noted on the diploma and transcript. Departmental honors will be noted on the transcript only.

CSU Bakersfield

An undergraduate student must have completed at least 60 letter-graded units of resident credit at CSUB to be eligible for graduation with honors. Honors are awarded if the student’s cumulative grade point average (Cum GPA) and CSUB GPA both reach the following standard:

- GPA 3.3 - 3.59 ....... cum laude
- GPA 3.6 - 3.89 ....... magna cum laude
- GPA 3.9 - 4.0 ......... summa cum laude
CSU San Luis Obispo

Candidates for bachelor's degrees with Cal Poly grade point averages indicated below will be awarded honors at graduation. The GPA is officially calculated at the time the student has completed graduation requirements and will be noted on the student's official transcript.

The three honors categories are as follows:

- **Summa cum laude** - 3.85 Cal Poly cumulative GPA
- **Magna cum laude** - 3.70 Cal Poly cumulative GPA
- **Cum laude** - 3.50 Cal Poly cumulative GPA

CSU Chico

**Honors at Graduation**

The University recognizes superior academic performance at graduation and on students' diplomas and transcripts. Each college of the University may award honors to up to 5 percent of its undergraduates each year. Honors designations are distributed as follows:

- **Summa cum laude** may be given to no more than the top 1 percent of the graduating class.
- **Magna cum laude** may be given to no more than the top 3 percent of the graduating class.
- **Cum laude** may be given to no more than the top 5 percent of the graduating class.

UC Berkeley

**Distinction in General Scholarship at Graduation**

To be honored at graduation for overall scholarship

- At least 50 units must have been completed in residence at Berkeley (including UCB Extension XB courses)
- A maximum of 20 units may be counted toward the required 50 units from either the UC Berkeley Washington Program (UCDC) or the Education Abroad Program (EAP)
- Of these, at least 43 must have been taken for a letter grade (physical education activities courses don't count)
- Your GPA in all letter-graded courses taken in residence at Berkeley must be equal to or higher than the GPA established for Distinction, High Distinction, or Highest Distinction in the year in which you graduate

General Scholarship Honors for the academic year 2010-2011:

**Distinction:** 3.712
High Distinction: 3.828
Highest Distinction: 3.933

UC Berkeley does not use the Latin terminology for honors. It may be understood that highest distinction is equivalent to *summa cum laude*; high distinction to *magna cum laude*; and distinction is equivalent to *cum laude*.

Santa Clara University

Honors at Graduation

Students who have received letter grades in at least 65 units (50 units for transfer students) are eligible to graduate with honors. The top 2 percent of the combined full- and part-time class is designated *summa cum laude*. The next 3 percent is *magna cum laude* and the next 5 percent, *cum laude*.

University of the Pacific

1. Whether students graduate with “Honors,” “High Honors,” or “Highest Honors” will be based on the student’s final Institutional (Pacific) grade point average.

2. The student must have completed a minimum of 54 letter-graded units at Pacific.

3. The requirements are:
   a. Cum Laude – 3.5
   b. Magna Cum Laude – 3.7
   c. Summa Cum Laude – 3.9

4. This distinction will be noted in the commencement programs based on their [spring] fall transcripts, with a disclaimer at the bottom of the page which reads:

   The above “Graduation with Honors” distinctions are contingent upon final grade point average calculations at the completion of all relevant coursework. (This program was printed up prior to the end of the Spring Semester.)

CSU East Bay: (CURRENT POLICY)

Cal State East Bay also recognizes undergraduate students at graduation for consistently high scholarship through their entire academic careers, which includes coursework they may have transferred in from other
institutions. If you graduate from Cal State East Bay during any quarter of the two years covered by this catalog, you will qualify for Graduation with Honors if your academic record meets the following criteria.

1. You will qualify for one of these categories of honors at graduation on the basis of the following grade point average in all college work: 3.93-4.00 summa cum laude (highest honors); 3.84-3.92 magna cum laude (high honors); 3.67-3.83 cum laude (honors)

2. To qualify for any category of honors, you must have a minimum Cal State East Bay grade point average of 3.60, and

3. You must have completed at least 60 units graded "A-D" at Cal State East Bay (up to 15 units in Open University may be substituted).

These standards were adopted to ensure that the top 1% of those graduating in the years this catalog is in effect receive summa cum laude designations, the top 3% receive at least magna cum laude designations, and the top 8% receive at least cum laude designations. Graduation with honors is governed by the catalog in effect at the time of the student's graduation. The GPA standards cited above are in effect for those who graduate during any quarter of the two years covered by this catalog. GPA standards will be adjusted in future catalogs, if necessary, to maintain the 1%, 3% and 8% groupings. So check the catalog in effect at the time you graduate to see if you qualify.