

UNH FACULTY SENATE
MOTION # XX-M34
on raising the minimum GPA for Honors program

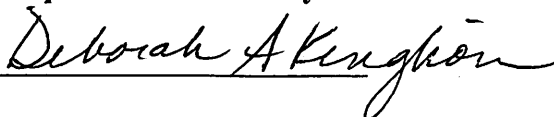
1. Motion presenters: Jo Laird, Senate Student Affairs Committee chair
2. Dates of Faculty Senate discussion: 4/25/2016, 5/2/2016

3. Rationale: The Student Affairs Committee (SAC) was asked to review a proposal from Jerry Marx and Kate Gaudet, dated 2/26/2016, for the University Honors Program (UHP) "... to raise the minimum GPA for students graduating with University Honors from 3.4 to 3.5 effective for students graduating in May 2017 and beyond". The reasons given for the change proposed are: 1) "as of May 2016 only students with a 3.5 or above are recognized as University Scholars or Presidential Scholars, or awarded cum laude designations" and 2) the UHP's belief that "recognizing students for University Honors who have a 3.4 GPA creates confusion ... and conflicts with the UHP's reputation for rigor and high expectations".

After reviewing this proposal, the Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) met with the director of the Honors program and was assured that any student graduating with a 3.4 – 3.5 GPA in the next two years will be granted Honors through petition. Subsequently, the SAC told the AAC (via Scott Smith) and the Agenda Committee (via Deb Kinghorn) that it should not be up to students currently in the UHP to petition for Honors if their GPA falls below 3.5 but is above 3.4 because they are bound by the catalog under which they entered UNH, and it says 3.4 is the minimum GPA for students graduating with University Honors. The most recent proposal of the UHP states that "Until current students graduate, [the UHP] will work with the Advancement office to ensure students graduating with University Honors but whose GPA's fall below the new standard are recognized at Convocation." The AAC accepted this new proposal 4/28/2016, and the SAC now makes the following motion:

4. Motion: To raise the minimum GPA for University Honors Program students with University Honors from 3.4 to 3.5 for students entering in the Fall, 2017, provided that the UHP: 1) announces this change in the next UNH undergraduate catalog published and 2) ensures that students who entered UNH before the change in minimum GPA will receive University Honors if their cumulative GPA is 3.4 or above.

5. Senate action: The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

6. Senate chair's signature: 

Forwarded to the following on May 13, 2016

President Mark Huddleston
Interim Provost P.T. Vasudevan
Mary Rhiel, Interim Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
All college deans
All department chairs