



DATE: April 6, 2023

TO: Kriz Bezdecny, Chair  
Academic Senate

FROM: Tiffanie Ford-Baxter/RC, Chair  
Student Policy Committee

CC: O. Villalpando, R. Chavez

SUBJECT: **Chapter IV of the Faculty Handbook: Recognition of Students at the University Honors Convocation**

The Student Policy Committee was charged with reviewing the existing *Recognition of Students at the University Honors Convocation* by Senate Executive Committee because the policy no longer reflected current practices. Specifically, that there is no longer a University Honors Convocation and that Honors Convocation activities are now planned by several colleges/departments/divisions/schools.

The Committee undertook a review of existing practices within the various colleges, reviewed current policies at other Cal States, and met with the former Chair of the University Honors and Commencement Committee. After significant fact-finding, the Student Policy Committee recommends that the policy be changed to allow for Honors Convocation to be held by the appropriate colleges/departments/divisions/schools.

The proposed modifications:

- Line 1 Updated the policy name to reflect the recommended changes and current practices.
- Lines 6-10 Added language that acknowledged colleges may hold honors convocation, along with departments/divisions/schools at the discretion of the college.
- Line 11 Replaced students with undergraduate to make the policy section clearer.
- Line 25 Added “Receiving Special Honor” to reflect changes made to the section.
- Lines 27-28 Added language that allows colleges/departments/divisions/schools to recognize GPA achievements by Graduate Students.
- Lines 28-31 Removed references to the University Honors Convocation and references to additional ceremonies.

1 Recognition of Students at the University Honors Convocation HONORS  
2 CONVOCATION AND AWARDS

3  
4 (Senate: 3/2/93, 10/14/08, 5/10/16; President: 5/14/93, 1/20/09, 8/17/16;  
5 Editorial Amendment: 9/00, 8/01)

6 **HONORS CONVOCATION.** COLLEGES MAY, AT THEIR DISCRETION, RECOGNIZE  
7 UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS IN AN HONORS CONVOCATION CEREMONY  
8 BASED ON GPA AND/OR OTHER CRITERIA DETERMINED BY THE COLLEGES. COLLEGES MAY  
9 GRANT AUTHORITY TO DEPARTMENTS/DIVISIONS/SCHOOLS TO RECOGNIZE STUDENTS IN AN  
10 HONORS CEREMONY AND TO DETERMINE STUDENT CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY.

11 **Students UNDERGRADUATES Named to the Dean's List.** Undergraduates who earn a grade  
12 point average of 3.5 or higher in 12 or more units of graded course work in one semester are  
13 named to the Dean's List. Students who receive NC for any coursework in the semester under  
14 consideration are not eligible to be named to the Dean's List for that semester.

15 **Scholarship and Award Recipients.** Scholarship awards are generally based on high academic  
16 achievements.

17 **Honor Society Initiates.** Chapters of more than twenty national and international honor  
18 societies have been chartered at the University to accord recognition to students who  
19 demonstrated superior scholarship and leadership in specific academic areas.

20 **Certificate of Honor.** The primary purpose of this award is to recognize students for academic  
21 excellence. Students who receive the Certificate of Honor are selected by their respective  
22 academic departments/divisions/schools for outstanding and distinguished achievement within  
23 their major area of study. Each department/division/school is limited to two undergraduate and  
24 two graduate awards.

25 **Graduate Students RECEIVING SPECIAL HONORS.** Graduate students who have a 3.80 or better  
26 GPA on their graduate programs and who have completed 80% or more of their graduate  
27 programs may be recognized BY THEIR RESPECTIVE COLLEGES AND/OR  
28 DEPARTMENTS/DIVISIONS/SCHOOLS. at the University Honors Convocation upon the  
29 recommendation of their departments/divisions/schools. Colleges and/or  
30 departments/divisions/schools may at their discretion, recognize other students in their  
31 ceremonies.