

**PROPOSED MINUTES of the Academic Affairs Board**

**Meeting date: February 4, 2014**

**b) Raising the standard for Dean's List**

Provost Ray will discuss more in depth at next AcAB meeting. The discussion centered around the anticipated proposal of raising the standard for the Dean's List to 3.7 or 3.75 from the current 3.5. There is also concern that currently, about 43% of students achieve Dean's List.

The awarding of Dean's List at 3.5 currently, and coincidentally, coincides with the Graduation standard for Cum Laude. 3.7 would raise it to Magna Cum Laude.

Does the Dean's List and the Graduation standard have to be linked? Should we raise both?

The question of what the norm for the other GLCA schools was raised, so we will not handicap our graduating seniors by denying them honors other schools are granting. Carol DeJong will report back at the next meeting.

It was decided more information will be needed before a motion can be proposed:

- 1) Norm for other GLCA schools
- 2) How has the standard for Cum Laude changed in the past?
- 3) What is the percentage of Dean's list students at other GLCA schools?

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AcAB will be revisiting the GPA for the Dean's List during its last couple of meeting this year. Recall that the Provost asked AcAB for input regarding a proposal to raise the GPA from 3.5 (43.0% of our students) to 3.7 (30.6%) or 3.75 (27.9%). Coincidentally, a GPA of 3.5 upon graduation corresponds to Cum Laude, and 3.7 corresponds to Magna Cum Laude.

Discussion by the Board on February 4 included the following points:

- \* The Dean's List recognizes performance for a semester, whereas the Graduation honors recognize performance for the entire college experience
- \* Should the Dean's List and graduation standards be linked (and if so to which graduation standard)?
- \* If Hope raises its Dean's List standard to high, are we putting our graduates at a competitive disadvantage when their transcripts are compared to student transcripts from other colleges?

AcAB ended up deciding that it needed some additional information. Our questions were:

- \* What is the norm for Dean's List recognition at other GLCA schools?
- \* How has the standard for Cum Laude (currently 3.5) and Magna Cum Laude (3.7) changed in the past? The sense was that the Dean's List standard had not changed, but this should probably be verified.
- \* What is percentage of Dean's List students at other schools?

## Dean's List GPA Standards

Virginia Military	3.0	50% ("Wow!")
Washington & Lee	3.40	
<u>3.5 or higher</u>		
Wentworth College		University of Pittsburgh @Bradford
LIU Post		Adelphi University
Lancaster General College of Nursing		Berkeley
Lutheran School of Nursing		University of St Thomas
Franklin Pierce University		Central Christian College
Pennsylvania College of Art & Design		Bay de Noc Community College
Reinhardt University		
Judson University	3.55	
Taylor University	3.60	
Southern Utah	3.60	15%
American Jewish University	3.60	30%
St. Louis University	3.70	
Grinnell College	3.75	
Eastern Illinois University	3.80	
Northwestern College (MN)	3.65-3.74 = Honors 3.75-3.89 = High Honors 3.90-4.0 = Highest Honors	
Computer Systems Institute	3.75-3.99 = Dean's List 4.00 = President's List	
University of Wyoming	3.25 = Dean's Freshman Honor Roll 3.40 or higher = Dean's Honor Roll 4.00 = President's Honor Roll	
Finlandia University	3.50-3.749 = Honors List 3.75 or higher = Dean's List	
RMCAD	3.50-3.99 = Honors 4.00 = Distinguished Honors	

### NOTES:

- no W or P grades
- with all grades at least "C"