

SPECIAL REPORT
of the
ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL
concerning
REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION
MAGNA OR SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Presented at the
628th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
March 11, 2004

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

William Richards Adrion
Mokhtar Atallah
Martha Baker
Robert Bernatzky
John J. Cunningham
Abhijit Deshmukh
Jeffrey Eiseman
Anthony Leonardi
Debbie Felton Miller
Ruth Green
Dennis Hanno
John Jenkins (Chair)
Arthur Keene
M. Christine King
Joseph Marshall
Pamela March-Williams
Ernest May
Jennifer Normanly
Elizabeth Pyle
Theresa Ray
Dennis Searcy
Linda Slakey
Erica Striar
Harlan Sturm

I. Background/Rationale

The present requirements for graduation with high Latin honors are tied to the University's current grading system (A, AB, B, etc.). In preparation for the change to the use of A, A-, B+, etc., in AY 2004 – 2005, the Commonwealth College Curriculum Committee discussed both the GPA requirement (which could stay the same) and the requirement for a specific grade on the culminating experience (which must be reframed in the new grades).

The current GPA requirements are 3.500 or better for *magna cum laude*, and 3.800 for *summa cum laude*. It is further required that, on the culminating experience credits and their artifact, whether thesis or product of a project or a capstone course, the student earn a grade of AB explicitly for *magna* and A for *summa cum laude*.

The Commonwealth College Curriculum Committee proposes that under the new grading system, the GPA requirements remain the same.

It further proposes that the grade that students must earn for their culminating experience course/s and for their documentation manuscripts and any accompanying artifacts (if these grades differ from the course grade/s) be a B+ or higher for *Magna cum laude* and an A- or A for *Summa cum laude*.

II. Recommendation of the AMC

The Council unanimously agreed with the Commonwealth College Curriculum Committee's proposal and the following MOTION.

MOVED: **That students must earn for their culminating experience course/s and for**
28-04 **their documentation manuscripts and any accompanying artifacts (if these**
 grades differ from the course grade/s) a B+ or higher for *Magna cum laude*
 and an A- or A for *Summa cum laude*, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-026.