

SPECIAL REPORT
of the
ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL
concerning
**RESIDENT CREDITS REQUIRED FOR
GRADUATION WITH LATIN HONORS**

Presented at the
619th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
May 8, 2003

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

**Mokhtar Atallah
Martha Baker
Robert Bernatzky
John J. Cunningham
Abhijit Deshmukh
Jeffrey Eiseman
Debbie Felton Miller
Ruth Green
Dennis Hanno
Kyle E. Hoffman
John Jenkins (Chair)
Arthur Keene
M. Christine King
Pamela Marsh-Williams
Joseph Marshall
Ernest May
Elizabeth Pyle
Dennis Searcy
Linda Slakey
Harlan Sturm**

A student who wishes to graduate with honors (*cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, *summa cum laude*) must, according to current regulations, have a minimum of 48 graded residency credits. This rule applies to students graduating *cum laude* on the basis of grade point average alone, as well as to Commonwealth Scholars who complete the requirements of Commonwealth College. The Academic Matters Council, upon the advice of the curriculum committee of Commonwealth College, recommends that the requirement be amended from 48 graded residency credits to 45 graded residency credits.

The requirement of 48 graded residency credits limits the opportunities for some transfer students to participate in programs offered by the University, such as internships or community service learning programs that are graded on a pass/fail basis. Commonwealth College wishes to encourage all students to engage in these activities, but finds that to do so would jeopardize the eligibility of some of its finest transfer students to graduate with honors recognition.

The University requires a minimum of 45 credits in residence. There is no stipulation that these be graded credits. The Academic Matters Council believes that it is appropriate that the minimum number of residency credits should be graded, if a student wishes to graduate with honors, but does not see a justification for maintaining a higher minimum credit requirement, particularly when balanced against the opportunities that might be lost for some transfer students.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate set at 45 the minimum number of graded
32-03 credits required for graduation with Honors (*cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, *summa cum laude*), as recommended by the Academic Matters Council in Sen. Doc. No. 03-029.