Resolution to award LATIN HONORS to UMKC graduates
(version for action: 1-20-2004)

Whereas Latin honors for top academic achievement upon graduation are more widely recognized than the current UMKC designation of “distinction”, and

Whereas Latin honor designations of *Cum Laude*, *Magna Cum Laude* and *Summa Cum Laude* allow expanded distinctions in recognition relative to the present designation, and

Whereas Latin honors are used at all sister campuses of the University of Missouri system to honor outstanding graduates from the undergraduate and first professional degree programs, and

Whereas recognition of top academic achievement at UMKC is not reflected by absolute grade point averages (GPA) because grading practices vary between units and programs of the UMKC campus, and

Whereas academic achievement is reflected in relative class standing provided that the graduating class size exceeds a certain minimum size, and

Whereas conferral of Latin honors at other recognized academic institutions is based on percentage class ranking with *Summa Cum Laude* given to the top five percent, *Magna Cum Laude* to the next highest five percent, and *Cum Laude* to the next highest ten percent, and

Whereas it is the responsibility of the faculty to decide whether and which Latin honors be awarded to graduates in their degree programs,

Therefore,

Be it resolved that effective June 1, 2004, UMKC terminates the practice of conferring “distinction” honors; and

Be it resolved that effective June 1, 2004, UMKC graduates be awarded Latin honors using the following rules:

1. All Latin honors calculations will use students’ official cumulative GPA during the semester of graduation and will not include the grades earned in the semester of graduation;

2. The percentage class ranking in Fall and Winter semesters will be calculated for all undergraduate and first professional students who have applied for graduation in each academic School or College, separating the large bachelors group of the College of Arts and Sciences into three graduating classes of Bachelors of Arts, of Bachelors of Science, and of Bachelors of Liberal Arts, using official cumulative GPA values of all students in the graduating class;

3. The percentage class ranking for Summer semesters will be assumed to be identical to that of the preceding Winter semester;

4. Academic units are informed in a timely manner by the Registrars Office of the name and the official cumulative GPA of each student who is eligible to receive Latin honors and of the highest Latin honor that may be awarded;

5. In those instances where a GPA tie exists among potential Latin honor recipients, faculty in the academic unit must inform the Registrar in a timely manner of a relative ranking of the tied candidates in order that Latin honors can be awarded;

6. The honor of *Summa Cum Laude* may be given to the top five percent of a class of graduates in an academic unit for each semester in which degrees are awarded, calculating the maximum number of recipients based upon the table included in this resolution;

7. The honor of *Magna Cum Laude* may be given to the top ten percent of a class of graduates in an academic unit for each semester in which degrees are awarded, calculating the maximum number of recipients based upon the table included in this resolution, reduced by the number of recipients of *Summa Cum Laude* honors;
8. The honor of *Cum Laude* may be given to the top twenty percent of a class of graduates in an academic unit for each semester in which degrees are awarded, calculating the maximum number of recipients based upon the table included in this resolution, reduced by the number of recipients of *Magna Cum Laude* and *Summa Cum Laude* honors;

9. Faculty in the Academic Unit, which recommends Latin honors for a class of graduating students, may choose to confer Latin honors at a lower level than the maximum allowed under the rules of this resolution or may refrain from conferring Latin honors. This decision must be received by the Registrar’s Office through an official notification from the Dean’s office of school or college no later than 1 week prior to graduation.²

10. Any exception to this policy or change in this policy must be approved by the full Faculty Senate by majority vote in secret ballot.

*Table, version A:*³

**Numeric thresholds** for Latin honors are based upon the table below. Larger class sizes will use the same formula as used to create the table below, i.e. a conversion of percentage limits applied to a class size into whole integer numbers of awards. Faculty may choose to confer fewer Latin honors or at a lower level than the maximum allowable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class size:</th>
<th>from:</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>20</th>
<th>25</th>
<th>30</th>
<th>35</th>
<th>40</th>
<th>45</th>
<th>50</th>
<th>55</th>
<th>60</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to:</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summa Cum Laude</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Magna Cum Laude</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cum Laude</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total number of Latin honors</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table, version B:*³

**Numeric thresholds** for Latin honors are based upon the table below. Larger class sizes will use the same formula as used to create the table below, i.e. a conversion of percentage limits applied to a class size into whole integer numbers of awards. Faculty may choose to confer fewer Latin honors or at a lower level than the maximum allowable. Note that the single Latin Honor for classes with less than 5 graduates will only be awarded if a positive recommendation to that effect is received by the Registrar’s Office through an official notification from the Dean’s office of school or college no later than 1 week prior to graduation.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class size:</th>
<th>from:</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>20</th>
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<td>to:</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>19</td>
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<td>44</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summa Cum Laude</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Magna Cum Laude</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cum Laude</strong></td>
<td>1*</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total number of Latin honors</strong></td>
<td>1*</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This Resolution was drafted by the Academic Issues Committee of the UMKC Faculty Senate. It was submitted in first reading to the Faculty Senate on December 2, 2003. Following discussion and consultation, the modified version(s) above is submitted for action by the Faculty Senate on January 20, 2004. Footnotes below contain information about modifications made and recommendations for action.
Resolution to award LATIN HONORS to UMKC graduates
(version for action: 1-20-2004)

Explanatory Footnotes for the Second Reading and Vote on the “Resolution to award Latin Honors to UMKC graduates”.

1. In the December 2003 Faculty Senate meeting, the issue was raised whether it would be possible to provisionally award Latin Honors at time of graduation, with final awards following inclusion of the grades of the graduating semester and determination of final awardees. For your information, ‘Distinction’ is currently calculated in the same way as proposed for Latin Honors based on cumulative GPA of all semesters that precede the semester of graduation. The answer to the question raised is ‘No’ because Latin Honors will be awarded to a defined number of graduates (see the numeric threshold Table used) and not based on the criterion that a set cumulative GPA level is exceeded, as currently used for ‘Distinction’ without numerical limits. The result of changing to a graduating-semester-GPA criterion would certainly result in withdrawing provisionally awarded Latin Honors, with lawsuits as a follow-up a certainty. Thus, the proposal brought to the Faculty Senate on January 20, 2004, for an up-or-down vote, is unchanged in article 1 from the version presented for a first reading to the December 2003 Faculty Senate meeting.

2 & 3: In the December 2003 Faculty Senate meeting, the amendment was proposed that even for classes with less than 5 graduates some Latin Honor might be possible. The Table named version B, together with its footnote, presents an alternative for a vote by the Faculty Senate on January 20, 2004. It presents the possibility that the top-ranking graduate in a class with less than 5 graduating members may be awarded a Cum Laude provided that a single official positive recommendation to that effect be submitted to the Registrars Office by the Dean’s Office of any school or college, on behalf of the faculty, no later than 1 week prior to graduation (footnote 3). It remains up to each school or college to decide by what internal procedure such a positive recommendation be reached.

It is recommended that the vote on this Resolution be as follows:

A. Vote to consider the Resolution
   • exactly as submitted for first reading in December 2003, including Table version A, or:
   • as modified, using Table version B, including the modified numeric threshold information.

Difference between Version A and Version B.

Version A: All Latin Honors will be awarded on the basis of cumulative GPA ranking using the numerical thresholds of the Table unless the Registrar’s Office receives official notification from the Dean’s Office of a school or college at least 1 week prior to graduation that its faculty have decided that fewer honors, or at lower than allowable levels should be awarded (footnote 2).

Version B: Latin Honors for classes with more than 4 graduates will be awarded as described for version A. The potential recipient of a Cum Laude honor, selected on the basis of highest cumulative GPA in a class with less than 5 graduates, will only receive the honor if the Registrar’s Office receives official notification from the Dean’s Office of a school or college at least 1 week prior to graduation that its faculty have decided to give the award (footnote 3).

B. Vote to accept or reject the version of the Resolution selected under ‘A’.