

Senate Council Meeting

September 21, 2009

Request for Waiver of *Senate Rules 5.4.2.2*

A student graduated from UK this past May. Although the student had a 3.932 GPA, the student was awarded the commencement honor of Magna Cum Laude rather than Summa Cum Laude, in accordance with *Senate Rule 5.4.2.2*. The student attended UK from for three years, from fall 2006 through May 2009, and earned 74 hours of credit from UK. The student would like to have the honor of Magna Cum Laude reflected, not Summa Cum Laude.

Snippet from *Senate Rules*:

5.4.2.2 Conditions of Merit and Circumstance for Degree Honors

A. Students shall be graduated "Summa Cum Laude" who attain a grade point average of 3.8 or higher for at least three years of work at the University of Kentucky (excepting correspondence study). [US: 10/11/94; US: 4/11/94]

B. Students shall be graduated "Magna Cum Laude" who attain a grade point average of 3.6 or higher for at least three years of work at the University of Kentucky (excepting correspondence study). [US: 4/11/94]

C. Students shall be graduated "Cum Laude" who attain a grade point average of 3.4 to 3.6 for at least three years of work at the University of Kentucky (excepting correspondence study). [US: 4/11/94]

D. Students with a minimum of two but less than three years of work at the University shall receive the appropriate commencement honors if they attain a grade point average of 0.2 greater than the above.

- * Courses taken under the Study Abroad and National Exchange Student programs (and for which students pay their tuition to the University of Kentucky) are considered as courses taken at UK for purposes of both Rule 5.4.1's residency requirement and for graduates to be conferred commencement honors at the time of award of their degrees under sections A-D of Rule 5.4.2.2. [RC: 2/14/01; RC 5/31/05]

E. The degree with honors from a professional college shall be based solely upon work done in the professional college.

F. The bachelor's degree with honors in a student's major or a degree with honors from a professional college will be conferred upon a student whom the faculty or the student's department, or college in the case of a professional college, and the dean of the student's college recommend receive the degree. A student may be required to complete work in addition to that required for the bachelor's or professional degree to receive a degree with honors. [US: 12/13/82]

G. All students in the Honors Program of the University who do not have a grade point standing of 3.5 or better but are in the top ten percent (10%) of their college's class are eligible to graduate in the Honors Program if they satisfy the other requirements and have approval of the Honors Program Director.

- * A student who has invoked the academic bankruptcy rule (SR 5.3.1.5) during his/her University career shall be considered, for the purposes of commencement honors, as having attended the University only for those hours earned subsequent to readmission. [RC: 6/21/83]

- * A student need not be enrolled full-time to fulfill the years of work necessary to receive commencement honors. Two years of work means 60 credit hours; three years means 90 credits. [RC: 5/8/85]

- * The SREC interpreted that under this rule, it is the cumulative GPA that is used to test for qualification for graduation honors, and that the minimum number of hours that must be included in that GPA calculation is 90 hours, and that the student does not have to be a full-time student to be eligible for qualifying for graduation honors. [SREC: 2/24/06]