

The SAASC convened on Wednesday, November 14, 2018 to consider a proposal from Dean Christian Brady of the Lewis Honors College to change Senate Rule 5.3.2. to require Honors students to maintain a cumulative 3.4 GPA in order to remain in good standing in the Honors College.

Attendance: Susan Effgen, Tom Troland, Shawn Caudill, Azhar Swanson, Kevin Donohue, Herman Farrell (Chair), Annie Weber (ex-officio), Dean Christian Brady, Associate Dean Czarena Crofcheck.

Procedure:

The proposal was reviewed by the Undergraduate Council (correspondence included in this PDF) and then reviewed by the SAASC. Susan Effgen, a member of the SAASC, acted as facilitator of the proposal.

Discussion:

Effgen presented the proposal to the committee. Members of the committee expressed general support for the proposal, noting that the cumulative 3.4 GPA requirement aligns with the cum laude distinction that is delineated on UK diplomas for all students graduating with a cumulative 3.4 GPA. There was some discussion at this meeting and the previous meeting concerning first year students that might struggle during that first year. But it was noted that students would not be removed from the college until the end of the first year, after being placed on probation for one semester. The committee reviewed the benchmarks and noted a similar requirement of maintaining a 3.4 GPA over the course of the 4 years with similar probationary periods. It was noted, from the 5 year review that was included in the proposal, that the change would not adversely affect many Honors students since a vast majority of them maintain GPAs well above 3.4.

The Chair noted that the proposed change to the Senate Rule 5.3.2, as set forth in the proposal does not include the implementation language regarding the probationary period that is included in the proposal letter. The committee agreed that the proposal should be approved with the inclusion of that language.

So the proposed SR change now reads:

5.3.2.X Lewis Honors College

Students in the Lewis Honors College must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.40 in order to remain in good standing. If a student's cumulative GPA falls below a 3.40, the student will be given one semester to bring their cumulative GPA up to a 3.40 and additional academic advising will be required. If a student falls below a cumulative 3.4 for two semesters *in a row* they will be dismissed from the Lewis Honors College. Affected students may appeal their dismissal to the Dean of the Lewis Honors College. There will

be no impact on scholarships unless otherwise stated in the scholarship contract that they received upon enrollment.

Vote: 6 in favor, 0 opposed.



To: Jennifer Bird-Pollan, Chair, University Senate Council

From: Christian Brady, Dean, Lewis Honors College

Date: October 1, 2018

RE: **Increase in the minimum overall GPA required to graduate with Honors**

Proposal:

5.3.2.X Lewis Honors College

Students in the Lewis Honors College must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.40 in order to remain in good standing. If a student's cumulative GPA falls below a 3.40, the student will be given one semester to bring their cumulative GPA up to a 3.40.

Implementation:

This will apply to students admitted Fall 2019 and following. If a student should fall below a cumulative 3.4 GPA for one semester, they will be put on probationary status and additional academic advising will be required. If a student falls below a cumulative 3.4 for two semesters *in a row* they will be dismissed from the LHC. They may appeal their dismissal to the Dean of the LHC. There will be no impact on scholarships received unless otherwise stated in the scholarship contract that they received upon enrollment.

Justification:

Currently, the minimum cumulative GPA requirement to graduate from the Lewis Honors College is a 3.0. The 3.4 requirement is the same as the University minimum GPA required to graduate with *cum laude* distinction; it seems fitting that graduating from the University "with Honors" should not have a lower standard than graduating *cum laude*.

A 3.4 cumulative GPA is also in line with the required Honors GPA at peer and aspirant institutions.

This proposal contains the following supporting data and documentation to support this change:

- 1) Approval from the Honors College Council representing the Honors Faculty.
- 2) Summary of GPA requirements of benchmark Honors Colleges.
- 3) Summary of data showing how the increase in the minimum would have affected the last five years of Honors Graduates.

Purpose. Intellect. Integrity.

1) Approval from the Honors College Council

The Honors College Council was presented with the proposal to make this change and voted to approve the increase in the minimum GPA to 3.4 at the September 28, 2018, meeting. The vote was five in favor and three against. Two members were not present, but one indicated their support for the motion. Those who voted against the motion did so out of concern for impact on the diversity of the college. These concerns are of primary importance to the dean and associate dean as well and we are dedicated to taking measures to negate or mitigate any negative impact.

2) Summary of GPA requirements of benchmark Honors Colleges

University of Arizona	3.5 or higher to graduate
Penn State	3.4 Maintained across all semesters
University of Michigan	3.4 by sophomore year
UC Davis	3.5 Maintained across all semesters
Ohio State University	3.4 Maintained across all semesters
University of South Carolina	3.3 Maintained across all semesters
TAMU	3.5 Maintained across all semesters
Mississippi State	3.5 Maintained across all semesters

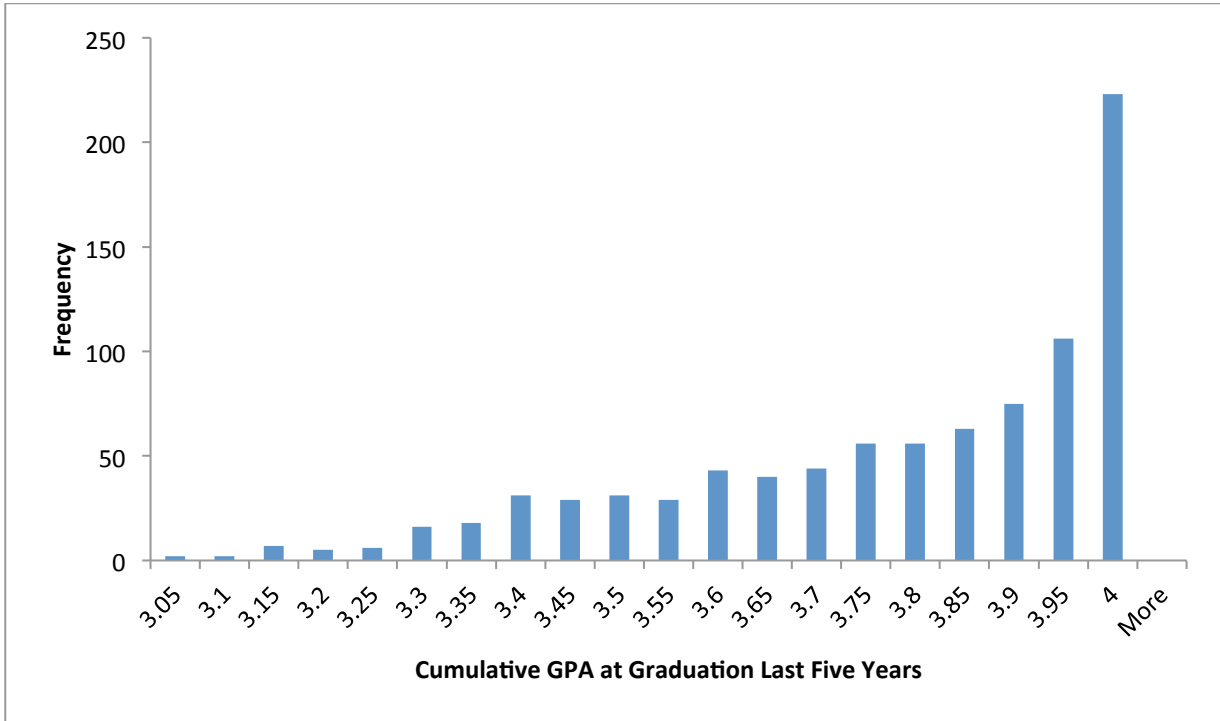
3) Summary of Data Based on Past Honors Graduates

HONORS GRADUATES, 2014-2018

The following analysis is based on data pulled from Tableau; these degrees were awarded to students who applied for graduation with an active Honors status. All majors are the primary majors as listed in Tableau.

It is important to remember that the students from these years were a part of a very different and changing Honors Program than the Lewis Honors College implemented in 2017. Far fewer students were admitted each year, ACT/SAT scores were important factors of admissions (they are not considered in admission to the LHC), and there was comparatively little support provided for the students as they progressed through the program, which was focused upon their first four semesters. In many ways this is not an apt comparison, but it is the only data that we have.

For example, this five-year cohort had a URM population of just 6.5%. The current population of Under-Represented Minorities in the LHC is over 8.3%. This is not as diverse as we would like, but recruitment efforts are already moving in the right direction. Changes to recruitment efforts, in coordination with the University Office of Enrollment Management, and the introduction of personal counselors, an expanded academic advising team, and dedicated Honors faculty are all part of our efforts to recruit and support a diverse student body in terms of both background and disciplines.



A total of 882 degrees was awarded, with 86 of those degrees granted to students with lower than a 3.4. This represents **10% of the total**, where 16% of the total received a cumulative GPA of 4.0.

Student Demographics

The total number of students was 882, where 86 received a cumulative GPA of less than a 3.4 at graduation, or 10%. This section shows the percentages of students that received a cumulative GPA of less than 3.4 from different stratified categories. For all the categories considered, the percentage of the students in that category that received a cumulative GPA of below 3.4 ranged from 6 to 13%.

Gender	# of Students	# <3.4 GPA	% Within Gender
Female	493	37	8%
Male	389	49	13%

Residency	# of Students	# <3.4 GPA	% Within Residency
Resident	687	71	10%
Non-Resident	195	15	8%

Pell Grant	# of Students	# <3.4 GPA	% Within Pell Grant
Eligible	132	17	13%
Not Eligible	750	69	9%

Appalachian	# of Students	# <3.4 GPA	% Within Appalachian
Yes	143	16	11%
No	739	70	9%

First Gen	# of Students	# <3.4 GPA	% Within First Gen
Yes	62	5*	8%
No	820	81	10%

*3.083, 3.254, 3.263, 3.276, 3.351

URM	# of Students	# <3.4 GPA	% Within URM
Yes	54	5*	9%
No	828	81	10%

* 3.254, 3.288, 3.291, 3.355, 3.356

Ethnicity	# of Students	# <3.4 GPA	% Within Ethnicity
Asian	32	2	6%
Black (Non-Hispanic)	10	1	10%
Hispanic	26	2	8%
Multi-Racial (two or more races)	18	2	11%
White (Non-Hispanic)	758	74	10%
Total Reporting	844	81	10%

Demographics for Students Under 3.4 Cumulative GPA

Again, the total number of students with a listed major was 881, where 86 received a cumulative GPA of less than a 3.4 at graduation, or 10%. This section shows the percentage of students that received a cumulative GPA of less than 3.4 from different the different colleges. The percentage of the students in each college that received a cumulative GPA of below 3.4 ranged from 3 to 15%. The two colleges with the highest percentage of cumulative GPAs below 3.4 were Engineering and Business and Economics, both at 15%.

College	# of Students	# <3.4 GPA	% Within College
Ag, Food and Environment	71	8	11%
Arts and Sciences	318	21	7%
Business & Economics	114	17	15%
Communication and Information	29	1	4%
Design	7	1	14%
Education	36	1	3%
Engineering	215	33	15%
Fine Arts	27	1	4%
Health Sciences	35	1	3%
Nursing	21	2	10%
Public Health	6	0	0%
Social Work	2	0	0%
	881	86	

Taking a closer look at only the majors where there were students with a cumulative graduation GPA of less than a 3.4, there were 30 majors. The majors with more than 1 student below a 3.4 and a below-3.4-GPA percentage at 15% or higher were all analyzed further.

Major	# of Students	# <3.4 GPA	% Within Major
Biology	121	10	8%
Chemical Engineering	55	10	18%
Mechanical Engineering	39	7	18%
Chemistry	27	45	15%
Accounting	33	4	12%
Agricultural Biotechnology	16	4	25%
Computer Engineering	24	4	17%
Computer Science	43	4	9%
Economics	27	4	15%
Finance	25	4	16%

Marketing	18	4	22%
Biosystems Engineering	12	3	25%
Electrical Engineering	14	3	21%
Political Science	32	3	9%
Nursing	21	2	10%
Psychology	36	2	6%
Animal Sciences	15	1	7%
Architecture	5	1	20%
Civil Engineering	13	1	8%
Community & Leadership Dev	3	1	33%
Equine Science & Management	8	1	13%
Human Health Sciences	21	1	5%
Human Nutrition	9	1	11%
Journalism	6	1	17%
Kinesiology	14	1	7%
Management	16	1	6%
Materials Engineering	12	1	8%
Mathematics	8	1	13%
Neuroscience	5	1	20%
Theatre	8	1	13%

For the following analysis, current cumulative GPAs of students in these majors were pulled from Tableau. Even the smallest percentage of 26% for Ec

nomics indicates that the at least the top 25% of the class would be able to remain in the Honors College and, for six majors, almost half of the students would be able to remain in Honors.

Major	# of Students (Honors)	# <3.4 GPA (Honors)	% Within Major (Honors)	% above a 3.4 (All)
Chemical Engineering	55	10	18%	48%
Mechanical Engineering	39	7	18%	34%
Chemistry	27	4	15%	46%
Ag Biotech	16	4	25%	48%
Computer Engineering	24	4	17%	49%
Economics	27	4	15%	26%
Finance	25	4	16%	51%
Marketing	18	4	22%	41%
Biosystems Engineering	12	3	25%	37%
Electrical Engineering	14	3	21%	49%

**Undergraduate Council Meeting
October 16, 2018; 3:00-5:00 pm
McVey Hall, Room 200**

Members Present:

Kalea Benner
Troy Cooper
Holly Hapke
Sarah Kerckmar
Brian Lee
Alicia Modenbach (Ex-Officio)

Dan Morey
Christina Ritter
Joe Sottile
Amy Spriggs (Chair)
Tammy Stephenson
Helen Turner

Members Absent:

Mary Shake
Allison Soult
Stephen Testa
Steven Van Lanen
Kakie Urch
Corrine Williams

Guests Present:

Czar Crofcheck
Miranda Hines
Thomas Dziubla
Kim Anderson
BJ Brandenburg

1. Discussion regarding Biopharmaceutical Engineering UG Certificate

The proposer, Thomas Dziubla, and Associate Dean, Kim Anderson, attended to discuss the proposal. Amy Spriggs shared that Brian Jackson, Interim Dean of the Graduate School, confirmed that undergraduate students may enroll in 900-level courses with the permission of the instructor and approval from the Graduate School. Undergraduate Council members explained their concern for undergraduate students having the same expectations as the professional students in a 900-level course. Dr. Dziubla responded with the success rate of undergraduates in this course and noted the students' appreciation for having a 900-level course appear on their transcripts. With no other questions from UGC members, the guests were thanked for their time and they departed.

2. Approval of October 2, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Approved.

3. Proposal Reviews

Biopharmaceutical Engineering UG Certificate-new (held, 3/20/18 and 9/18/18) – approved: attach letter from Dean Jackson to proposal before sending forward

AAD 535DL-new – approved: description of assignments for undergraduate students should be expanded; 20% rule should be updated

KHP 450-change – approved

Lewis Honors College GPA requirement proposed changes – **held**: proposal to increase the required cumulative GPA from 3.0 to 3.40, beginning with students admitted to the college in fall 2019

- Czar Crofcheck circulated data showing how the increase in GPA would have affected the last five years of Honors graduates. UGC members questions how the dismissal of students from the Lewis Honors College (LHC) would affect students' scholarships. If students lose scholarship money, they may potentially leave the university entirely, having a negative impact

on retention in programs across the university. Dr. Crofcheck noted that some scholarships may be tied to enrollment in the LHC but will mostly be independent of each other. She also explained that students will be granted one semester to bring up their GPA once it dips below 3.4, and furthermore, if a student is dismissed from the LHC, s/he will have the opportunity to appeal to be readmitted later if they have raised their GPA.

- Some UGC members expressed concern for freshmen who may not be prepared for the rigor of some courses typically taken in the first year (chemistry, calculus, etc.), and who may need more than one semester to raise their cumulative GPA. Some UGC members expressed support for the proposal as-is, with the belief that Honors students should be held to a higher standard.
- Some UGC members discussed the possibility of stair-stepping the cumulative GPA requirement, so that freshmen in the LHC are allowed more flexibility to prevent dismissal from the college (and the potential of lost scholarships and a negative impact on retention).
- UGC members suggested removing the "0" from the proposed 3.40 GPA requirement, to allow for rounding
- Crofcheck agreed to provide freshmen-only data for the 2017-2018 cohort accepted under the new Honors admissions standards; if less than 10% of these students would have fallen below the 3.4 GPA requirement, the UGC agrees there is no issue with moving forward with the new requirement.

Aerospace Engineering UG Certificate-new – **held**: discussion regarding EGR 390 ("Experiential Learning – Aerospace Experience") being taken by these students for 0 credit hours – how much work are they being asked to do for 0 credits? when is it okay to offer a 0-credit hour course?; Student Learning Outcomes and the assessment mapping (6a and 6b) do not seem to correspond to each other (6b has been updated, but 6a was not updated accordingly); program assessment may be too detailed – should narrow down to 2-3 SLOs and ensure proposed data reporting is manageable and sustainable; MA 214 has been removed as one of the math options in each of the specialties, since all EGR students already complete MA 214; the Aerospace Chemical Systems Engineering specialty has no math requirement, unlike the others, and instead has a statics requirement (okay because it is anticipated that the students in this specialty will be majoring in chemical engineering and will not have taken statics - their math requirement can be fulfilled with statics, because of the vector algebra in the course; this explanation will be included on the proposal); should delete duplication throughout the proposal, course descriptions are not needed, comparison to old certificate is not needed

4. Proposed changes to Senate Rule 1.3.3 "Undergraduate Council"

A brief discussion was held regarding proposed changes to membership and representation (Lewis Honors College, Public Health, and possibly others) of Undergraduate Council and the possibility for senior lecturers to chair the committee. Members will review the proposal and continue the discussion at the October 30, 2018 UGC meeting.

5. Other Business

Crofcheck shared some updated data with the group, concerning the GPA requirement proposal from LHC, which showed 13% of freshman in 2017-2018 would have been impacted by the cumulative GPA increase from 3.0 to 3.4. It was noted the first-year students in Engineering are allowed two semesters to raise their GPA, so the LHC may want to consider a similar grace period for their students.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Prepared by Joanie Ett-Mims on October 17, 2018

**Undergraduate Council Meeting
October 30, 2018; 3:00-5:00 pm
McVey Hall, Room 200**

1. Discussion regarding Lewis Honors College GPA requirement proposal

Lewis Honors College (LHC) dean Christian Brady and associate dean Czar Crofcheck attended to discuss the proposal (previously discussed by the Undergraduate Council on 10/16/2018). Dean Brady provided some background information for the proposal and explained the reasoning for the increase in the GPA requirement, including the following:

- A 3.4 is required at UK to graduate cum laude.
- The LHC has been and will be actively recruiting a diverse population and intends to graduate a more diverse population, even with the GPA increase.
- Out of ~60 underrepresented minority students in the LHC, four would have been dropped from the college under the proposed new GPA.
- The LHC employs five advisors, five personal counselors, and 12 faculty, who are all providing support to students.
- Scholarships, other than the Singletary scholarship, are independent of membership in the LHC.
- A higher required GPA will have a positive impact on prospective students, including high-achieving underrepresented minority students.

Undergraduate Council members had questions and comments regarding the proposal, summarized below, with the responses from Brady and Crofcheck:

- Freshmen may need more flexibility in the first year before they are dropped from the LHC especially during their first semester; students dropped from the LHC may leave the university entirely.
 - Brady: Not really a concern, as these students will receive counseling and advising after the first semester their cumulative GPA falls below a 3.4; there is also the ability to appeal for re-entry to the LHC if they are dismissed from the college after 2 consecutive semesters of a cumulative GPA below 3.4.
- Concern about loss of scholarships (Singletary) – students may be doing well in their majors but not well enough to stay enrolled in the LHC.
 - Crofcheck: The Singletary scholarship used to have a 3.3 GPA requirement but it was dropped to 3.0 several years ago to match the Honors Program.
 - Brady: Enrollment Management and the Scholarships office support the proposed GPA increase, and they are prepared to support students who may lose scholarship money.
 - Brady: Typically do not see attrition due to GPA only; usually other factors involved.
- How strict is the 3.4 requirement?
 - Brady: It will be strict. Students will have the ability to appeal, but there has to be a clear cut-off.
- Excellent students may crash and burn their first year but do really well later. Could the first semester of their freshman year just not be calculated in their GPA?
 - Brady: Goal is to have 10% of the student population enrolled in the LHC. Not everybody is an honors student. Advising for LHC students will be comprehensive, from Merit Weekend on. In addition, there will be an upper-level admissions process for rising sophomores and juniors.

- Honors students should be an elite group of students, who will know the requirements to stay enrolled.
- Seems to target specific populations/majors (many honors students enrolled in Health and Human Nutrition, for instance). There is concern about losing students from these majors if they are dropped from the LHC and leave UK entirely.
 - Brady: Approving this proposed increase in GPA requires an element of trust, because we have not done this before. The LHC and the university plan to support these students so that they do not leave UK if they are dropped from the LHC. Any problems that arise will be addressed. Associate Provost for Enrollment Management, Christine Harper, provided a letter of support for the proposal.
- Brady confirmed that the GPA increase will not be retroactive.

With no other questions or comments from UGC members, Brady and Crofcheck departed after expressing their thanks to the group. The council members continued their discussion briefly to reiterate some comments previously mentioned. Spriggs motioned to approve the proposed increase in GPA for Lewis Honors College students from 3.0 to 3.4, and Testa seconded. The motion passed with five votes for, four against, and one abstention.