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SAN JOSE STATE COLLEGE
SAN JOSE 14, CALIFORNIA

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

June 3, 1965

ACADEMIC COUNCIL POLICY RECOMMENDATION

#S65-24

RECEIVED

JUL 26 '65

PRESIDENT
San Jose State College

At its June 3 meeting the Academic Council adopted the attached report on Departmental Honors at Graduation, developed by the Committee on Curriculum and Instruction.

J. Thornton
Secretary

ACTION BY COLLEGE PRESIDENT:

Approved
R. D. Clark, Sept 20, 1965

APPROVED:

R. D. CLARK, SEPT. 20, 1965.

ACADEMIC COUNCIL NOTIFIED: September 20, 1965
(date)

Filed under:

May 27, 1965

The Honors and Honors Programs Committee recommends to the Academic Council of San Jose State College that the following resolution regarding the awarding of Departmental Honors at Graduation be adopted as college policy:

Departmental Honors at graduation shall be awarded to students who have completed an approved departmental honors program or who, during an interim period of not more than three years,* shall have achieved a grade point average in major courses of 3.0 or better and a grade point average of 3.0 or better in all non-major courses taken.

Departments not having departmental honors programs approved by the appropriate curriculum committees of the college should consider establishing such programs before September, 1969, if they wish to award departmental honors at graduation thereafter. (Suggested guidelines for Departmental Honors programs are attached.)

Departmental Honors at graduation should reflect comparable achievement among departments and should represent distinction earned. Grade point average alone should not be sufficient for the awarding of departmental honors.

This policy shall not be construed as prohibiting departments from giving students achievement awards that are not primarily based upon academic standing.

*This three year period shall be a phase-out period for the current practice of awarding departmental honors at graduation on the sole basis of g. p. a.

Suggested Guidelines for Departmental Honors Programs:

Departmental Honors at graduation should be earned by specific honors level work as contrasted to work only in regular classes and should reflect the student's choice to attempt Departmental Honors.

Departmental Honors should be awarded, not for extra-curricular services or activities in the department (perhaps some award of merit may be given for these), but for academic excellence and extra academic achievement to secure honors.

Each department should arrange for a Departmental Honors program suitable to its own discipline (subject to general approval by appropriate curriculum committees of the college).

Departmental Honors programs may constitute a four-year program, but provisions should be made so that transfer students will not be excluded.

Departmental Honors programs may very well be constituted only of upper-division work, except that only students achieving and maintaining specific grade point averages should be eligible for the award of honors at graduation. The Honors and Honors Programs Committee believes that said specific grade point averages should not fall below those recommended for the three year interim phase-out period.

Some departments may find it desirable to have an Honors program comprised solely of an honors thesis, or perhaps a senior seminar and an honors thesis. Others may wish to develop more extensive programs leading to departmental honors.

Some departments may not wish to award Departmental Honors at graduation at all.

Departmental Honors should aim at recognizing outstanding academic excellence and achievement in the major field, and any department that finds itself awarding more than 10% of its graduating seniors departmental honors at graduation should feel the need to re-assess its standards of outstanding academic excellence and achievement.

Departments should make a sharp distinction between outstanding academic achievement and other kinds of achievement, and may well wish to give some achievement award to students who may not be academically qualified for departmental honors at graduation.

The intention of these guidelines is to upgrade the awarding of departmental honors at graduation and to make such distinction meaningful and more nearly comparable throughout the college.

