



University Senate PROPOSAL FORM

Name:	Benjamin Kurtz
Date:	9/29/2011
Title of Proposal:	Honors Graduation
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Unit/Department/College:	Criminal Justice/BSOS
Constituency (faculty, staff, undergraduate, graduate):	
Description of issue/concern/policy in question:	My concern is the manor for which final class rankings are computed.
Description of action/changes you would like to see implemented and why:	Please see below

Suggestions for how your proposal could be put into practice:	Please see below
Additional Information:	

Please send your completed form and any supporting documents to senate-admin@umd.edu or University of Maryland Senate Office, 1100 Marie Mount Hall,

College Park, MD 20742-7541. Thank you!

My area of concern is the manor for which final class ranking are computed . First I must state, I understand as to why final semester grades are not used to compute honors as per graduation ceremonies; but I don't believe this reasoning should justify why true class rankings can't be computed for printed diploma. Specifically, I believe there to be an intrinsic value as to having cum laude printed on a diploma. I believe that once printed on the diploma, issued by the University, that finality has occurred and it is implied by any and all looking at the diploma, that the individual has indeed graduated in the top ten percent of

his or her college. It is not assumed by future employers or graduate programs that this implies that said individual was in the top ten percent of his or her class up and until his or her last semester. In furtherance, I believe a potential graduate has a "Property" interest in their diploma and thus should have adequate due process in challenging their ultimate final position within their class. My proposed remedy is neither overly burdensome or costly; I would suggest that after all grades are posted for the final semester(for which the college must wait in order to issue diploma) that a re-calculation of final class standings is done, and diploma's are printed and awarded accordingly. It is inherently unfair that a student could potentially graduate with a higher GPA than a fellow student, and yet the aforementioned may not have cum laude printed on his/her diploma while the other would.

Points of reason

1) Property interest in diploma

2) Intrinsic value In having cum laude printed on diploma

3) lack of due process and transparency in calculation of true final class standing

4) Inherently unfair to have potential higher GPA than those with honors, yet not receive honors yourself

5) Remedy would be easy to implement, and make final class standing accurate and fair

Thank you for your consideration,

Benjamin Kurtz 111545278