

***Resolution Conferring Honorary Doctorate upon
John D. Bentley, MD***

WHEREAS, John Bentley, MD has distinguished himself by his extraordinary contributions to the area of public affairs; and

WHEREAS, he faithfully volunteered and administered free health care to the uninsured homeless through Sister Lorraine's Kitchen Clinic and the Missouri Hotel for over 20 years; and

WHEREAS, he was instrumental in the opening of a free store-front clinic, which has grown to become the Jordan Valley Community Health Center, a federally qualified health center serving more than 44,000 patients in five clinics in southwest Missouri; and

WHEREAS, he has tirelessly served as a member of the Jordan Valley Community Health Center Board of Directors since its inception in 2002 and he established the Bentley Fund, for those who cannot pay for services, which is supported annually by a 5K run; and

WHEREAS, he recognized the advantage of non-hospital community resources for making the delivery of health care more efficient and cost-effective, and for contributing to the recovery of patients by initiating the cardiac rehabilitation program at the YMCA and the Changing Hearts program at Hammons Heart Institute; and

WHEREAS, his notable voluntary leadership and commitment to this community has included serving in many organizations and on boards, including Ozarks Greenways, Greene County Medical Society, March of Dimes, United Way of the Ozarks, Ozarks Public Television, and Advocates for a Healthy Community; and

WHEREAS, he served this country as an aviator with the US Navy for four years as a young man including flying missions over the China coast while being stationed in Okinawa,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of Missouri State University, meeting on this third day of December in the year two thousand fifteen, recommend to the Board of Governors of Missouri State University that the degree of Doctor of Public Affairs (A.P.D.) be conferred upon Dr. John D. Bentley at the Commencement Ceremony in May two thousand sixteen in recognition of his extraordinary achievements in the area of public affairs.

Academic Relations Committee Report on Scholastic/Academic Honors Fall 2015

Committee Members:

James Scott (COB)
Joan Test (COE)
David Mitchell (CHPA), Chair
Saibal Mitra (CNAS)
Josh Smith (CHHS)
Shannon Wooden (COAL)
Nathan Hoff (ex officio, Registrar)
Michael Foster (Faculty Senate Chair Elect)

The Academic Relations Committee has reviewed the scholastic/academic honors program at MSU as per our charge from Faculty Senate. We were charged with examining whether the current GPA requirement needs to be changed, if the number of hours required for honors should be reduced, and other issues. For example, if a student undertakes a semester abroad their hours will not be counted towards completion of the requisite number of hours for honors. Therefore, a student could transfer into MSU, take 60 hours at MSU with 15 of these hours in a semester long study away program, and, by the current rules, they would not be eligible for graduating with honors (assuming that they meet the GPA requirements). We examined the current policy and collected quantitative data on the number of students who received honors, those who appealed denial of honors to the Degree Committee, and Study Away students. Our findings and recommendations are below.

Findings:

1) The Academic Relations Committee believes that graduating with honor is a true distinction and should be reserved for those students who met the criteria. There will always be students who are a few hours short of the threshold concerning honors. However, if the university makes a standing policy of granting honors to these students, in effect lowering the bar, then there will be a new cohort of students who are just a few hours below the new lower standard. Also, reducing GPA or hours requirements diminishes the value of graduating with honors for all students. Furthermore, reducing scholastic honors thresholds discredits the hard work of students who did get honors. It also discredits the work of those who had exceptional extenuating circumstances that they overcame to graduate with scholastic honors.

2) Requirements for graduating with honors are clear and straightforward with a defined appeals process in place through the Degrees Committee. Students must complete at least 60 credit hours at MSU and maintain a GPA above a certain threshold (Summa Cum Laude 4.0 to 3.9; Magna Cum Laude 3.89 to 3.75; Cum Laude 3.74 to 3.5) In the case of transfer credits, the lowest of their MSU GPA or their overall GPA is used. For example, a student cannot transfer in half of their credits from one institution where they might have a GPA of 4.0 and then finish up their degree from MSU with a GPA of 3.0. Even though their overall GPA would be 3.5, their MSU GPA would fall below the threshold making them ineligible for honors. Exceptions to these rules are considered on a case by case basis by the Degrees Committee.

3) Students who are close to graduating with honors but don't is a relative non-issue applying to very few students. We examined data on the number of graduates per semester, the number of those graduating with honors, and the number of students who were close to graduation with honors but failed to do so because they did not meet the required number of 60 hours. We defined students close to graduating with honors as students who has the requisite GPA for honors distinction but were 6 hours or less short of the 60 hour threshold (i.e., students with at least 54 MSU hours). The table below outlines these results and shows that the number of students who are close to graduating with honors but fail to do so averages less than 1% of graduates. Furthermore, since Spring of 2009, the University Degrees Committee has only heard 6 appeals concerning students who were not granted graduation with honors. Of these 6 cases, 4 were approved so that students graduated with honors and 2 were denied.

Semester	Undergraduates	Receiving Honors	'Close' to Honors
Summer 2015	310	46 (14.8%)	0 (0%)
Spring 2015	1885	545 (28.9%)	27 (1.4%)
Fall 2014	999	216 (21.6%)	2 (0.2%)
Summer 2014	304	31 (10.2%)	0 (0%)
Spring 2014	1784	537 (30.1%)	14 (0.78%)
Fall 2013	978	189 (19.3%)	4 (0.4%)
Total	6260	1564 (25.0%)	47 (0.75%)

4) Variation in the appeals decisions over time was identified, likely due to the varying makeup of the Degrees Committee. Of particular interest to the Academic Relations Committee is the decisions concerning appeals where students have study away credit hours. In both cases, students spent a semester studying away and receiving credit hours. However, since these credit hours are considered 'transfer hours' they are not included in the 60 hour minimum MSU threshold. Two students appealed these decisions—one appeal was granted the other was not. Reading through the Degree Committee's notes, it is not clear why one appeal was granted and the other was not, but it is thought that this might be due to the changing makeup of the committee and a lack of 'committee memory'.

Recommendations:

1) Given the variable makeup of the Degrees Committee over time, consistent guidelines and maintenance of institutional memory are recommended. For example, maintenance of records of past appeals and their decisions should be maintained for future Degrees Committees members to reference.

2) Leave the current policy regarding honors unchanged with the following suggestions for the Degrees Committee:

A) Appeals from students with as few as 55 hours *could*, but do not necessarily *have*, to be approved. Since some courses are 5 hours in length, students in essence can only be 'one' course short of honors. Successful appeals must demonstrate ***exceptional circumstances***.

B) We do not recommend considering any appeals to the GPA requirement for receiving scholastic honors.

C) We recommend that appeals as low as 55 hours not be 'advertised' but be a policy that is known only to the committee and not to the students. We do not wish to create an atmosphere of appeals from students for the committee.

3) Long term Study Away hours (semester and year) be given special consideration related to academic honors appeals. The university has gone to great lengths to promote cultural awareness for students. One way that this is done is through study away opportunities. The Academic Relations Committee recognizes the valuable function that study away has on students and does not believe that students should be harmed by participating in such a unique opportunity. We recommend that the 55 credit hours earned appeal consideration guideline be extended in appeals based on Study Away participation. We recommend that Study Away participants be able to appeal a credit hour deficiency equal to the number of credit hours earned in the Study Away participation.

Curricular Action Workflow

Missouri State > Computer Services - MIS > Curricular Action Workflow > CAW - Delete Program Proposal Form

Submitted on 09/24/2015 by Richard Gebken (Richardgebken@missouristate.edu).

Delete Program Proposal Form

Title of Program Affected:

Facility Management-BS

See separate attachment for detailed program deletion proposal under the Curricular Action Workflow system.

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Submitted on 09/24/2015 by Richard Gebken (Richardgebken@missouristate.edu).

Delete Program Proposal Form

Title of Program Affected:

Manufacturing Management-Undergraduate Certificate

See separate attachment for detailed program deletion proposal under the Curricular Action Workflow system.