



Resolution S2025.15

Ensuring Faculty Participation and Transparency in Academic Honors Recognition Processes

Moved: Susan Hoang

Seconded: Sara Kelley

Whereas, the selection of academic honors such as valedictorian is based on academic criteria including GPA, unit completion, and course residency, which fall under “academic and professional matters” as defined by Title 5 §53200—such as grading policies, degree requirements, and standards of student success;

Whereas, the current processes for awarding academic honors, including the selection of a valedictorian, have lacked sufficient transparency, limiting students’ understanding of eligibility criteria and potentially undermining equitable access to academic recognition;

Whereas, faculty possess direct expertise in academic standards and a vested interest in ensuring fairness and clarity in procedures that recognize and celebrate student academic achievement;

Whereas, faculty participation in academic honors recognition processes aligns with shared governance principles and reinforces academic integrity and student trust in institutional decisions;

Resolved, that the Santa Ana College Academic Senate affirms that the selection of academic honors—including, but not limited to, the designation of valedictorian—constitutes an academic and professional matter, and therefore requests that all related selection processes be subject to collegial consultation

Resolved, that the Academic Senate calls for the inclusion of at least one faculty member, appointed by the Academic Senate, to serve on any committee or body responsible for determining academic honors recognitions, including valedictorian;

Resolved, that the Academic Senate urges that the criteria and procedures for awarding academic honors be clearly and proactively published to all eligible students to ensure transparency and equitable access;

Resolved, that the Academic Senate requests regular consultation on any proposed changes to academic honors selection processes to ensure continued alignment with academic standards, equity, and principles of shared governance.

Date Presented: May 27, 2025

Date Approved: May 27, 2025