

**To** Senate and Senate Committees, Thompson Rivers University

**From** Kellee Caton, Chair, Policy Subcommittee of Academic Planning and Priorities Committee, Thompson Rivers University

**Date** January 26, 2018

**Subject** Review of Policy ED 3-4 Academic Recognition

### **Background and Purpose of This Memo**

This policy was due for a review September 2007. The original policy was sent to the TRU community in March of 2015 for input and the revised draft was sent in November. Input was incorporated into the document. The document then began making its way up the Senate committee approval chain. EPC expressed concerns about programs with very small numbers of graduates, and how academic recognition should be calculated in such cases. EPC requested the subcommittee to explore this case further and offer recommendations, which the subcommittee did, and EPC subsequently approved a revised version of the policy in March 2017. After that point, an issue was raised about the policy not being inclusive of students with disabilities. Further consultation was undertaken, which included the Registrar reaching out to other Registrars at peer institutions. This consultation turned up a realization that the requirements for TRU's dean's list were much more stringent than a peer institutions. The policy was thus further revised after EPC's March 2017 approval, and then recirculated to the TRU community. We are now bringing it back to EPC, and then on to APPC and Senate. (We are not bringing it back to GSC, as there are no new changes not already approved by GSC that affect graduate education.) The purpose of this document is to recommend to Senate that the Policy be amended as indicated.

### **Background of Policy**

The policy, which was last amended in 2002, is meant to explain under what circumstances students may receive recognition for a semester well performed (Dean's List) or a credential well completed (Graduation with 1st or 2nd Class Standing—now proposed to be changed to Graduation with Distinction).

### **Reasons for Amendments of Policy**

The policy should be amended because the current policy allows for some programs to consistently recognize a much larger percentage of their students for high achievement than other programs, and also because the terminology of 2nd Class Standing is seen

as pejorative by many. It should also be amended to be inclusive of students with disabilities and to bring our standards in line with those of peer institutions.

**Action Requested**

Senate is requested to endorse the amendments to the policy for implementation September 2018.

**Attached**

A draft of the current version of the policy, plus a draft of the proposed revisions, showing the latest round of changes tracked.