FACULTY MEETING
March 5, 2010

January Degree Conferral

Proposal:
The Registrar's Office requests consideration of a change in practice that would allow us to confer the degree, without ceremony, in January for those students who have met all requirements for the degree. We would not change the students' class year, and these candidates would still be invited to participate in the May Commencement as usual. Not all January completers actually participate in Commencement, but some number of students do elect to return to campus for the formal ceremony.

Rationale:
Every year approximately 20-30 students complete their degree requirements in January, following collection of the fall term grades. In some cases, students have been reclassified from a prior class year; in other cases, the students have accelerated and are completing early; and in some cases a leave of absence or a spring term admissions has moved the student off the more routine pattern. Our current practice is to fold the names of these degree candidates in with the May candidates and to award the actual degree in May.

This practice creates problems for the January completers, since they often are attempting to take jobs or enter graduate programs as soon as possible. The Office of the Registrar must complete certification letters for these students, indicating completion of requirements and assuring the recipient that the she (routiCt tha)4wbe invid t(May candidaf.0006sdi)-1.4requirue7.000gl(som)8ree to f)3.6i)-1 ha
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- February – mail diplomas (dated January 31, YYYY) as close to February 1st as is feasible
- May –include the graduates in the May Commencement Bulletin (perhaps with a notation re: the completion date)

Process:
- Consideration by CAS
- Consideration by CEPP
- Consideration by VPAA Staff
- Consideration by President's Cabinet
- Consideration by IPPC
- Consideration by Faculty (March faculty meeting; formal vote not required)
- Action by Board (May meeting)
- Implementation – September 2010

March 4, 2010