

Faculty of Arts

MEMORANDUM

To: Prof. Raewyn Dalziel, DVC (Academic)

CC: Prof. John Morrow, Dean
Dr Luke Goode, Associate Dean (Students)

From: Jan Crosthwaite, Associate Dean (Academic, Budget and Planning)

Date: 30 June, 2006

Subject: **Postgraduate Qualifications: Honours, Distinction, Merit**

The consultation document has been circulated to all Departments (HoDs and Graduate Advisors) in the Faculty.

The Faculty of Arts agrees with the goals of consistency, transparency and simplicity behind the recommendations from the meeting/working group on grading.

In 2006, the Faculty decided to set a uniform cut-off between H2(1) and H2(2) at B+ (GPA 6), having discovered that some Departments used this while others used the cut-off point recommended in the current document.

Some concern has been expressed that setting a differentiation part-way through the B grade (GPA 5.5) makes a differentiation where there is not an obvious demarcation point. (What would be the relationship between the grade descriptors for B and the demarcation between H2(1) and H2(2)?). However it is realised that the Honours category results from an overall average, and some Departments who responded to the consultation document acknowledge that if this is to be a significant cut-off, then that will be taken into account in the determinations of examiners meetings.

Others respondents have expressed support for the proposed recommendations.

The Faculty is pleased to see a clear statement of the correspondence between Honours grades and the Distinction/Merit categories. This is essential given that both Bachelors (Honours) degrees and PGDiplomas may give entry to the MA, and be the basis for awarding scholarships.

The Faculty acknowledges the importance of clear descriptors for grades at postgraduate level, and for levels of honours. These have been, or are in the process of being, developed for all subject areas.