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Sent: Friday, 30 June 2006 2:28 p.m.
To: x.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xx.xx
Cc: Haigh Mavis
Subject: PG Qualifications: Honours, Merit and Distinction

Feedback from the Faculty of Education on Meeting on Grading Paper.

The Faculty supports the need for consistency across the university.

The Faculty will support the use of GPAs as the basis of awards of Honours, Merit and Distinction and agrees that the cut off points are appropriate. It would be our preference, however, to use marks averages rather than GPA. We suggest this because:

- marks are more transparent to students (see consideration 2 at the foot of the paper). Student work is either awarded a letter grade or a mark. GPAs add a further categorization that will need to be explained to students.
- marks account for finer distinctions in assessment which may be significant in borderline cases (compare, for example, two students doing 4, 30 point courses, each with two B+ grades and two A- minus grades. Using GPAs these students would both be awarded 2(1) and yet their cumulative marks, assuming that one scores at the bottom of the range on each grade and one at the top, could be as many 16 marks apart. If Honours were then calculated on marks average, rather than GPA, one would be awarded First Class, the other 2(1)). In providing this example, and in making this recommendation, we are well aware that assessment is not the exact science that the use of marks appears to suggest but we do feel that there is potential for a reasonably large spread of cumulative totals to be masked through the use of GPAs.

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The Faculty invites you to its 125th Jubilee of Teacher Education, 23 September 2006

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