IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

1. That the attached proposed revision of requirements for graduation from the Honors College be approved by the University Senate.

2. That this proposal be forwarded to the Interim President George M. Philip for approval.

3. That the proposed revision takes effect upon the Interim President's approval.

Proposed changes to: Senate Bill No. 0506-05:

Honors College students will be required to take 18 credits in honors courses before their junior year. (Students beginning in The Honors College after two semesters in residence at UAlbany will be required to take 12 credits.) A maximum of 4 of the 18 credits may be earned through one-credit honors courses.

*inserted text in bold
Rationale:

By unanimous vote, the Governing Board of the Honors College requests a change in the requirements for graduation from The Honors College. Current requirements include that students must complete six honors courses during their first two years (five courses if starting in The Honors College during the second semester of their first year; four honors courses if starting in The Honors College during the first semester of their second year). The Governing Board recommends that this requirement be changed to 18 credits for students admitted to The Honors College as entering first-year students and 12 credits for students admitted to The Honors College to start during their second year. All other requirements for graduation from The Honors College (e.g., completing a senior thesis or creative project) will remain the same.

One goal of The Honors College is to provide a wide range of educational experiences, some of which may be in addition to the traditional classroom educational experience. Changing the graduation requirement from number of courses to number of credits will allow the creation of several additional types of experiences that will enhance the education of students in The Honors College. These potential educational experiences include:

- 1- or 2-credit travel courses led by UAlbany professors during breaks (e.g., a trip to Death Valley during the spring break, a trip to Brazil during the winter break);
- 1-credit discussion sections for honors students that are attached to an introductory lecture course [e.g., honors students in a large lecture course meet with the professor of the course an hour a week for discussion (and complete additional assignments related to the discussion)];
- 1-credit courses that we hope to create for students in The Honors College, such as a course for first-year students that focuses their attention on the variety of research methodologies used by professors across the UAlbany campus.

Most incoming first-year students using these 1- or 2-credit experiences are likely to take one less 3- or 4-credit honors course than they do under the current requirement. We do not anticipate that this would be problematic for their education and believe that the 1- and 2-credit courses are likely to increase the breadth of their educational experience while at UAlbany. The limit on 1-credit courses and the limited availability of 2-credit travel and other courses means that almost all honors students will take five “traditional” 3- or 4-credit honors courses as they meet the new requirement.