March 14, 2014 – Attachment G

**Honor Societies at Pacific Lutheran University**

Honor Societies are organizations that serve to recognize the achievements of students who are among the highest in their class in scholarship and also meet other requirements of distinction in leadership, service or another broad field in the organization.

Honor societies at Pacific Lutheran University may base their membership criteria primarily with respect to students’ scholarship or primarily for their leadership, service or character achievements. In keeping with the definitions and standards of the Association of College Honor Societies, Pacific Lutheran University categorizes Honor Societies into two groups. Scholarship Honor Societies base their eligibility primarily on having a high standard of scholarship that includes individuals in the highest 20% of their class. Leadership Honor Societies base their eligibility primarily on standards of achievement in leadership or service, but the standard for scholarship includes individuals in the highest 35% of their class.

Honor societies at Pacific Lutheran University may be either unit/discipline specific or university-wide in scope. Those Honor societies that are academic unit/discipline specific use membership criteria that are specific to an identified academic unit or field of study for which the student is a documented member (e.g., a declared major or minor). Honor societies that are considered university-wide use membership criteria that are open to students across the campus community, regardless of field of study.

Procedure for implementing a new Honor Society

1. A recommendation for instituting a University-wide Honor Society is to be approved through the following procedure. (NOTE: parallels procedure for creating a new major or program)
   a. A proposal will be submitted to the Educational Policies Committee that includes a rationale for the addition of such an honor society to the PLU community.
   b. The Educational Policies Committee publishes the proposal online.
   c. The proposal will be subject to the 30-day review period, during which objections may be submitted in writing.
      i. If no objections, the proposal shall move to the Faculty Assembly for action.
      ii. If objections, mediation and hearings may be conducted as necessary. The Educational Policies Committee will decide if the proposal shall move to the Faculty Assembly for action.
   d. If approved by the Faculty Assembly, the proposal shall move to the Board of Regents for action.

2. A recommendation for instituting academic unit or discipline-specific honor societies is to be approved through the following procedure.
   a. A proposal is to be submitted to the Chair or Dean for the specific unit.
   b. If approved by the unit, a recommendation shall be made to the Provost for final approval.