

#### March 1, 2010 The 8th Symposium: Standards Based Assessment and Honours Classification

#### Plenary Panel Discussion II

Standards Based Assessment and Honours Classification – the Path ahead for UGC-funded Institutions

Chairperson: Professor Michael T. Prosser The University of Hong Kong

#### Standards Based Assessment

Discussants: Professor Carmel McNaught

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Mr. James Rice Lingnan University

Dr. C.S. Tong Hong Kong Baptist University

**Professor Wang Wen Chung** The Hong Kong Institute of Education

#### Honours Classification

Discussants: Dr. Catherine C.H. Chiu

City University of Hong Kong

Professor Esmonde F. Corbet The University of Hong Kong

**Professor Suleyman Demokan** The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Dr. David Mole The Hong Kong University of Science and

**Technology** 



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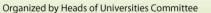












Catherine CH Chiu

Associate Dean (Undergraduate Curriculum)
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
City University of Hong Kong

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The University of Hong Kong

334 Symposium on Standards Based Assessment and Honours Classification



# Classification Methodology at CityU

Bachelor's Degree with Honours	PGC/PGD/Master's Degree AD/D/HD
First class	Distinction
Upper Second class	Credit
Lower Second class	Pass
Third class	
Pass (without Honours)	

- \* Classifications are based on CGPA (Cumulative Grade Point Average)
- \*Worked out a consistent approach to classification-CGPA mapping within the university



## Issues

leve	es honours classify broad els of achievement or narrow ciplinary levels?	CGPA is based on all courses taken by students → looking at broad levels of achievement
Hos diff	we need both GPA and nours Classification? What Ferent roles do they / should y play?	Yes, we need both.  CGPA $\rightarrow$ how well a student has performed in courses.  Honours Classification $\rightarrow$ tells whether a student is ranked in the top x% of graduates from an institution $\rightarrow$ useful for employers and when educational institutions accept candidates for higher studies
inco	w does honours classification orporate generic attributes, vice courses, interdisciplinary arses double majors etc	Honours classification based on the achievement of all courses has incorporated generic attributes, interdisciplinary courses, double majors etc



# Concluding Comments

- \* Honours classifications are still useful as different universities have different GPA systems
- \* Universities might consider to adopt a common terminology in our award classification



#### Esmonde Corbet 高弼文

Chair Assessment Sub-committee
Member Steering Committee on 4-Year UG Curriculum
The University of Hong Kong.



8<sup>th</sup> 334 Symposium

**Standards Based Assessment & Honours Classification** 

1 March 2010

- To continue or not was discussed.
- System to be retained, at least for the timebeing
  - useful for screening by employers
  - useful for screening by universities using or familiar with the British system

Keep an eye on the UK introduction of the Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR)

#### What does honours denote?

- 1. Broad classification of overall student achievement
  - Core curriculum
  - Major(s)
  - Minor(s)
  - Required/elective
  - Capstone/experiential
- 2. Achievement in major discipline(s)

HKU has used GPAs since 1998.

From 2012 weightings of GPA to be standardized in the determination of honours classifications

and <u>all</u> courses to carry equal weighting, including failed courses.

At present award of Honours appears to be based on weighted GPA.

If GPA converts to Honours
Why have both?
Other approaches to awarding Honours may be considered.