ADDENDUM:

Letter from Kyle Hatch submitted to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee spring 2012

Faculty Senate Members,

As the ASOSU Director of Veterans Affairs, I see a great need for our veterans and service members to be recognized with honor cords at commencement. Our nation’s military service members and veterans pay an enormous sacrifice for the service of our beloved country. In respect for the students who have made this sacrifice, chosen to continue their education and have done so at this prestigious university, Oregon State University should show its gratitude and admiration by honoring these members during commencement. Many other colleges and universities throughout the United States already recognize their veterans and service members with an honor cord. The honor cord is a red, white, and blue threaded cord.

Oregon State University has an abundance of veterans, service members, and dependents. Our ROTC program is often referred to as the West Point of the West, due to its large size and representation of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force. Oregon State University is a model school for veteran support, being recognized by G.I. Jobs as a Military Friendly Schools for the past three consecutive years. To offer our veterans and service members this honor for a job well done is well deserved and a great recognition by this university.

To see the student veterans and service members with red, white, and blue threaded cords recognized during commencement, would be a great honor for the students and this university. An additional section within the commencement book that explains the importance of the honor cords and a star next to each graduating member’s name would help distinguish these students and explain the sacrifice they have all made. I understand that it may be difficult to include a section on the honor cords in this year’s commencement book, but I would be willing to take all the necessary steps to make this addition.

Michelle Obama is a very strong advocate and supporter of veterans. As our Honorary Guest, it would be an incredible opportunity and an honor for the First Lady to recognize the graduating students who have served our country.

On the following page please find:

Earning a Degree at Oregon State University

From the OSU General Catalog & Schedule of Classes, retrieved Nov. 9, 2012:
http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/ChapterDetail.aspx?key=6#Section55
Degrees With Distinction
Graduates who have completed at least ninety credits at OSU or sixty upper-division credits at OSU, and who have an OSU cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher, are awarded an OSU degree with distinction as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Distinction</th>
<th>OSU GPA Range</th>
<th>Graduation Honor Cord Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cum Laude</td>
<td>3.50–3.69</td>
<td>Orange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magna Cum Laude</td>
<td>3.70–3.84</td>
<td>Gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summa Cum Laude</td>
<td>3.85–4.00</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These distinctions are noted on diplomas.

Undergraduate Research/Arts Fellow Honor Distinction
Oregon State University recognizes significant engagement and accomplishment in undergraduate research and the arts by awarding an honor distinction of "Undergraduate Research/Arts Fellow" to students of all majors upon completion of a significant research or creative arts experience under faculty mentorship.
"Research" here is intended to encompass modes of scholarship and inquiry as they are variously practiced and defined in OSU's academic disciplines. Students completing significant creative projects in the arts may receive the honorary distinction "Undergraduate Arts Fellow." The distinction will be noted on the student’s transcript, and the student will receive a blue honor cord to be worn at graduation ceremonies.

To qualify for the Undergraduate Research/Arts Fellow distinction:

1. Students must demonstrate involvement in all major phases of their project including conception, implementation, and presentation. This involvement will generally consist of sustained work over multiple quarters resulting in an original contribution relative to the discipline.
2. The project presentation must be to an audience that extends beyond the immediate research group or creative context, for example at a public performance, departmental symposium, the annual Celebration of Undergraduate Excellence, a professional meeting, or through publication in a student or professional journal.
3. Evidence of the presentation must be submitted with the final honorary distinction application and deposited into the OSU Scholars Archive.
4. A member of the OSU Graduate Faculty must endorse the application, verifying satisfaction of the criteria described above.

To apply for the distinction, students should complete the OSU Undergraduate Research/Arts Fellow Honor Distinction Application, which will be made available on the Oregon State Undergraduate Research Framework website (http://oregonstate.edu/students/research/). The application includes a detailed narrative description of the project and the student’s involvement in specific research/creative tasks, a timeline of the student's project engagement, details of the public presentation, and the Graduate Faculty member’s endorsement. Applications are submitted to the head advisor in the students’ major college, who will sign the application and transmit to the Office of the Registrar for processing. Applications may be submitted at any time during the undergraduate’s career but no later than three weeks prior to a student’s anticipated graduation date.
Undergraduate Military Service and Veterans Honor Distinction [need to discuss/clarify name]

Oregon State University recognizes the significant contribution and sacrifices made by students who are military service members and veterans by awarding an honor distinction of “Undergraduate Military Service and Veterans Honor Distinction” upon completion of the baccalaureate degree. The distinction will be noted on the student's transcript, and the student will receive a red, white, and blue honor cord to be worn at graduation ceremonies.

To qualify for the Undergraduate Military Service and Veterans Honor distinction:

1. Students must demonstrate involvement in military service. This will consist of submitting _____________ [what criteria/documentation would be expected to clarify who is eligible?] with the honorary distinction application.
2. The president of the Faculty Senate [we need to name a faculty member to sign in confirmation/approval] must endorse the application, verifying satisfaction of the criteria above.

To apply for the distinction, students should complete the OSU Undergraduate Military Service and Veterans Honor Distinction Application, which will be made available on the Oregon State _________________ website [insert a web link]. The application includes [dates? documentation? description of service? Etc?] a summary of the military service, and the Faculty Senate President’s endorsement. Applications are submitted to the head advisor in the students’ major college, who will sign the application and transmit it to the Office of the Registrar for processing. Applications may be submitted at any time during the undergraduate’s career but no later than three weeks prior to a student’s anticipated graduation date.