

Minutes

Arkansas State University Honors Council

8:00a.m. Tuesday, September 27, 2016 – Honors Seminar Room

Present: Ms. Rebecca Oliver, Mr. Chad Whatley, Jennifer Salo, Dr. Brandon Kemp, Dr. Beth Hood, Dr. Debbie Shelton, Dr. Maureen Dolan, Dr. Joe Bonner, Erick Chang, Nikesha Nesbitt, Erin Langley, and Robert Morris.

The meeting was called to order at 8:100 a.m.

Minutes –

Secretary – Debbie Shelton was nominated by Dr. Beth Hood to serve as secretary for the 2016-17 academic year. The nomination was accepted.

Fall 2016 Enrollment Update – There are 223 Honors Freshman for Fall 2016. This number follows the implementation of increased Honors admission requirements from 27+ACT/3.50+ high school GPA to 28+GPA/3.50+ high school GPA. The average ACT for Fall 2016 students is 29.65 with an average 3.91 average high school GPA. There were approximately 1700 incoming freshman with 223 designated Honors for an average of 13% which aligns well with the national average target of 10-15% of Honors freshman. The Honors Council will continue to monitor freshman trends.

There are a total of 956 Honors students for Fall 2016 which is 29 students less than this time last year.

Fall 2017 Recruiting – Recruiting is underway for 2017. The admission criteria for Honors is unchanged for Fall 2017 (28+ACT/3.50+HSGPA). The A-State Scholar remains the highest scholarship given to students with eligibility at 32+ACT/3.50HSGPA. The A-State Scholar is competitive. Institutional Scholarships are now open for out-of-state students as well as in-state students. The A-State Scholar remain available to US citizens only.

Ms. Oliver reports the Red Wolf Preview Day went very well with 271 persons attending. There were 30 Honors Ambassadors who served making this the largest group of volunteers. There are 115 Honors Ambassadors. The usual target of Honors Ambassadors is 10% to serve during preview days. For the Red Wolf Preview Day, there were >25% who served. Upcoming preview days are October 8 & 29 and November 5th. Junior Preview Day is scheduled for November 12th.

The ArkACRAO College Fair is scheduled for October 19th and will be held in the Convocation Center. The career fair offers a great opportunity for recruiting. A-State programs are not limited on tables and all colleges are encouraged to participate.

Spring 2017 Honors Courses – There are two HNRS Special Topics courses that were approved. HNRS Special Topics (Hendershot) was approved [Hood (motion)/Bonner (second)] with all in favor. HNRS Special Topics (Taste of Italy) was approved [Chang (motion)/Bonner (second)] with all in favor. Ms. Oliver will be attending the Taste of Italy in May. She explained the Slow Food Movement will be the focus of the trip with pork being the subject matter. The cost of the trip is currently at \$4544 and Honors Experience Grants are available for eligible students. The cost of the trip is very fluid at this time. There are currently 25-30 students who have expressed interest.

Honors Experience Grants – Chad Whatley reports there was approximately \$26,000 carried forward from last year to this Fall. Last year, Honors students were assessed \$50 each semester for a total of \$200 annually. From this money, the Honors Experience Grant (HEG) was developed where students can apply for \$2000 annually for various works of scholarship. Last fall, \$14,383 was awarded to students with \$25,638 awarded in Spring 2016. Mr. Whatley reports the process is still a little slow so students should be encouraged to apply as early as possible. Unpaid internships can be paid with HEG monies but internships that are previously funded are not eligible.

Competitive Fellowships & Scholarships – Jennifer Salo reports this time of year is considered the “gauntlet period” with impending deadlines for eight different fellowships falling between October 3rd and November 1st. Ms. Salo reports there are 20 applications to be submitted by November 1st. Faculty support is both appreciated and offered for those who may need help. Ms. Salo reminds the Council the Truman Fellowship is offered for up to \$30,000 for graduate school who those professions serving in public service.

Honors Advisor List 2016-2017 – Ms. Oliver reports she has emailed each Honors Council Representative the most current list of Honors Advisors. All are encouraged to review the list and send any changes to Ms. Oliver. The role of the Honors Council Representative will be the topic for the next meeting.

Upcoming Events – Homecoming Tailgate on October 15th for all Honors Students. Faculty can may \$7 to eat with the group. Ms. Oliver and Mr. Whatley will be presenting at the National Collegiate Honors Council conference on October 12th – 16th. Honors advising occurs October 24th-28th with Honor Priority Registration from October 31st – November 4th. Honors Orientation is scheduled for April 10th. This event was a huge success this past April with 179 student attending. (179/223 = 80% of incoming Honors Freshman attended.)

Other Projects – LIB 103B is being renovated. Ms. Salo will be moving from the Library 6th floor to the Honors offices. The Honors Medal Campaign that began with the May 2016 graduating class was well received. There was >\$2000 from alumni given for Gold and Silver medals for graduating Honors Students. Ms. Oliver reports there was contributions from alumni that occurred in several different venues. Some contributions were given to the Honors College for medals in which Ms. Oliver paired with like Honors seniors. Some contributions were given for specific medals for specific students. All students had a name of the contributor in the receiving medal box. Ms. Oliver reports only positive

remarks for alumni and students. The Honors Medal Campaign will continue for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for November 15th at 8am. The reorganization/restructure of colleges with regards to Honors Council Representatives will be the topic.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Shelton