

Minutes
Arkansas State University Honors Council
8:15a.m. Thursday, October 01, 2015 – Honors Classroom

Present: Ms. Rebecca Oliver, Mr. Chad Watley, Dr. Brandon Kemp, Dr. Beth Hood, Dr. Jeonghee Choi, Dr. Deborah Traylor, Dr. Holly Hall, Dr. Debbie Shelton, Dr. Maureen Dolan, Dr. Nikesha Nesbitt, Dr. Joe Bonner and Ms. Shalyn Wallace.

The meeting was called to order at 8:20 a.m.

Secretary – Debbie Shelton served as secretary during the last year and has volunteered to serve again if needed. Motion by Hood with second by Kemp. Unanimous vote by the Honors Council in support of Shelton serving as secretary during the 2015-2016 terms.

Honors Assistant Director – Rebecca introduced Mr. Chad Whatley who will be serving as the Honors Assistant Director. Chad supplies his background of interest in the position as he was a Distinguished Graduate from Honors. Chad informs the Council that he is excited to be back at ASU and wants to be a resource to the Honors Council and faculty as needed.

Special Projects Coordinator – Rebecca introduced Ms. Jennifer Salo who has been hired to work 20 hours weekly as the Special Projects Coordinator. Jennifer has been working with the Provost to write the job description for the competitive fellowships and scholarships that are offered. Jennifer relates to the Council that she attended the National Association of Fellowship Advisors this summer focusing on how to boost our programs at the university. There have been six fellowships/scholarships chosen at ASU for students. Jennifer will act as the liaison for the student in assisting in the completion of the application process. Jennifer also offers her service to meet with eligible/interested students, meet with faculty groups or individually, or provide workshops for a specific fellowship/scholarship.

Fall 2015 Enrollment Update – Enrollment numbers were down by 44 freshman students for Fall 2015. With the change in eligibility criteria, another decrease is expected next year. With the current resources in the Honors College, the goal for freshman students is 240.

Honors College Fee – In May, the Board of Trustees approved the proposed fee of \$50 per semester for students enrolled in the Honors College. This fee has netted the Honors College with \$50,000 with the same amount expected in Spring 2016. It was expected that approximately 100 students would opt-out of Honors with the fee, however only 44 students opted-out.

Honors Experience Grant – Honors students are eligible for the Honors Experience Grant of up to \$2500 per year. The application process for students is discussed by Rebecca. The grant is for students only and can be used for a variety of learning experiences. There has not been an application submitted this semester. Students who have SURF monies can apply. There are no stipends available but rather the grant must be used to enhance learning. Jennifer, Chad, and Rebecca will make the decision on who is

awarded the grants. The first monies were spent for a tailgate party during the Homecoming football game for students. Faculty and staff can purchase tickets for \$10. The tailgate will begin at 3pm.

Fall 2016 Recruiting – The new criteria of 28+ ACT/HSGPA 3.5 passed last year and is enacted. Recruitment is ongoing now. There will be 25 A-State Scholars with the criteria being 32+ACT/HSGPA 3.5+ with a wait list if needed. Preview days are September 26, October 10 & 17, and November 7th. There were 175 students registered for September 26th but no way to determine potential students at this early. Interest was expressed by 25-30 students throughout the day.

Spring 2016 Honors Courses - Course proposal by Cyndy Hendershot is presented as a Special Topics Course Proposal for Spring 2016. After review, a motion was made by Traylor with second by Bonner to approve the course.

Honors Council Representative role/Honors Advisor role – Rebecca supplied the updated list of Honors Advisors with a brief description of expectations of representatives and advisors. Representatives are highly encouraged to take information from the Honors Council meeting back to departments in the form of information for faculty and students. Seeking input from faculty and department heads is also encouraged.

Honors Advisor List 2015 – 2016 - Rebecca supplied the updated list of Honors Advisors.

Upcoming Events - Homecoming Tailgate October 3rd, Honors Advising begins October 26th – 30th, Honors Priority Registration November 2nd – 6th. Rebecca and Chad will be attending the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) conference from November 11th – 15th in Chicago where Rebecca will deliver three presentations.

Brochures – Brochures have been developed to use for social media as a recruitment tool and will be given to students during recruitment.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2015 at 8:15a.m. in the Honors Classroom.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Shelton

