

Minutes
Arkansas State University Honors Council
8:20 a.m. Thursday, October 30, 2014 – Honors Classroom

Present: Ms. Rebecca Oliver, Ms. Jamie Beck, Dr. Brandon Kemp, Dr. Beth Hood, Dr. Phillip Tew, Dr. Jeonghee Choi, Dr. Deborah Traylor, Dr. Holly Hall, Dr. Debbie Shelton, Dr. Maureen Dolan, Dr. Nikesha Nesbitt, Ms. Savannah Lancaster, Dr. Joe Bonner, and Jarrod Creameans

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

Minutes: Minutes from the September 25, 2014 meeting were read and approved. Motion by Hood/second by Hall/all in favor.

Spring 2015 Honors Course List: There is a long list of available Honors courses for students to enroll in for the Spring 2015 semester. The list was provided to all committee members. Priority registration begins next week. This is an earned privilege for Honors students. Be sure to make students aware of the availability of courses in Honors advising sessions. There is an Honors Independent Study (HIS)/Thesis Option course. There is a maximum of 3 credit hours allotted for this course. Students earn 3 hours in the HIS course but there are no hours earned for the thesis component.

Fall 2016 Honors Admission Criteria: Rebecca open the topic of increasing the Honors admission criteria as outlined in previous meeting minutes. Dr. Traylor polled her college and the results were split – suggestions include maybe implementing another measurement such as an essay versus using the GPA only. Dr. Hood had one comment from a faculty member who opposed with the comment that increasing the GPA eliminates diversity, promotes students from privilege, and weeds out students from small towns. Dr. Bonner only has 2 students in Honors presently. Reports from Hall, Dolan, Shelton, Kemp stated their perspective colleges were supportive of the increase. University College is supportive with 75% for and 25% against. SGA representative reports that most students agree but some were opposed. Students should be reminded they can apply for Honors later if they desire to do so. Dr. Bonner will get feedback from his college as he missed the first meeting. Rebecca reports that Honors College cannot continue with the number of students and lack of resources. UALR has 20-25 students with a median ACT of 29/3.8GPA and requires an interview process. UA requires an ACT 28/3.5GPA with students invited as a Walton Scholar with 3.75 GPA. UCA requires an ACT 28+/3.5GPA but has plans to increase to ACT of 30/3.9GPA with an application process. Arkansas Tech requires an ACT 28+/3.5GPA with an interview and essay. ASU currently has 5% out-of-state Honors students. Dr. Dolan states that we need to pass this measure but we may need to be looking down the line at another measure such as an application process. Hood made a motion to move the increase in admission criteria to ACT 28+/3.5GPA to Shared Governance. Second by Lancaster/all in favor.

Honors College Fee: Report from the College of Business that 2/3 of persons polled were against assessing a fee of \$50 per semester to Honors students. College of Nursing and Health Professions has the same results. Dr. Traylor had few people to respond. Those who did were suspicious and stated that

any collected monies should be designated for the Honors College only. Some suggested that administration should provide more support to the Honors College. University College is opposed but may be more supportive of a one-time fee versus a fee each semester. Jarrod states that students are in favor as the fee would benefit them directly unlike other fees. Jarrod states that most students will not notice the fee as scholarships will cover this fee. Dr. Dolan states that her college was not opposed. Dr. Kemp states that approximately 50% of respondents were not opposed. Dr. Choi reports that she had one faculty that was opposed but most supported the fee. Dr. Bonner stated that his college voiced no problem with the fee. Creative work that requires materials that students or colleges cannot afford to supply will be supported with the fee in addition to research fee and travel abroad. Several colleges have special projects that are costly for students to complete without financial help. The fee will aid in helping students who have creative assignments as part of their Honors courses. The idea of a course grant for Honors faculty was introduced. A suggestion was made to poll Honors students to see where the increase monies are needed. A motion was made by Shelton to move the Honors College fee to Executive Council. Second by Hall/Opposed by Tew, Nesbitt/Bonner abstained from the vote/all else in favor.

General Education Petitions: One student has requested to take HNRS Ethics in the Health Professions instead of Philosophy as a general education requirement. HNRS Contemporary Ethical Issues will be substituted for Introduction to Philosophy for one student. All representatives present voted to allow the stated substitution.

Transfer Course Evaluation: East Arkansas Community College (EACC) has requested Honors transfer for courses Honors Interdisciplinary Seminar (IDS) 1211, 1221, 2211 & 2221. There is an Honors Transfer Credit Policy in place since December 2010 that allows for up to 6 hours of transfer Honors work when equivalency exist between courses or per a blanket substitution. There are no ASU equivalency courses with EACC 1211, 1221, 2211, or 2221 and a blanket substitution will not be allowed in this case as these courses are seminars only. All in favor to deny transfer of EACC courses.

Honors Lanjaron Study Abroad Update (Spring 2015): There are currently 8 students committed to the trip. This course is now open to non-Honors students.

Upcoming Events: Representatives were reminded of several important dates listed in the agenda including: Honors Priority Registration November 3 – 7, Honors Lecture of the Year November 4, and Prize Patrol scheduled for December 11-12, 15-17 (tentatively).

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2015 at 8a.m. in the Honors Classroom

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Shelton

