

Minutes
Arkansas State University Honors Council
8:15 a.m. Thursday, September 25, 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

The meeting was called to order at 8:20 a.m. Introductions were presented by all members.

Election of Chair and Secretary: Dr. Holly Hall volunteered to serve as Chair for the 2014-2015 academic year. Dr. Debbie Shelton volunteered to serve as Secretary for the 2014-2015 year. Both self-nominations were approved by the Council.

Minutes: Minutes from the April 04, 2014 meeting were read and approved.

Honors Council Representative role/Honors Advisor Role: Ms. Rebecca Oliver briefly visited the duties of the Honors Council Representative/Honors Advisor. This is a dual role in assuring Honors students receive a quality Honors experience. The representative not only signs the paperwork that is necessary but is reminded to review the curriculum for quality. The representatives are the gatekeepers to insure that students receive the optimum Honors experience while at Astate.

Fall 2014 Enrollment Update: There are currently 320 freshmen enrolled in the Honors College for Fall 2014 which is up from 263 in Fall 2013. There are a cumulative total of 998 students enrolled in the Honors College this year.

Fall 2015 Recruiting: Ms. Rebecca Oliver reports that recruiting is well underway. Astate has an 18 month recruiting year which begins at the beginning of the student's junior high school year. There are currently five preview days that are scheduled. Fifty students were present during the first preview day on September 20, 2014. At this time, junior students had one opportunity only to take the ACT exam. The Astate Scholar Award, totaling \$56,000/4years, is no longer considered a full ride scholarship. This year we offered 97 scholarships and had 70 students to accept. During the upcoming year, we will be offering 75 scholarships with the hopes of yielding 40 students. The Governors' Distinguished (GD) scholarship is offered to students with a 32+ composite ACT and >3.5 high school GPA and is valued at \$100,000. Astate has 23 incoming students who have received the GD scholarship totaling \$230,000 from state monies. Remaining Preview days are 9/27, 11/1, 11/8, and 11/15).

Fall 2016 Honors Admission Criteria: There is a proposal from the Honors College to raise the Honors admission criteria from 27+ composite ACT and 3.50+ high school GPA to 28+ composite ACT and 3.50 high school GPA. The numbers of Honors first-time freshmen for Fall 2014 equals 18.8 of the total freshman population. Ideally, the number of Honors freshman should be 10-15% of the total freshman population. If the proposed Honors admission criteria (28/3.50) had been in place for Fall 2014, there

would have been 242 Honors freshman that totaled 14.2% of the total freshman population. Representatives are asked to discuss the criteria with their colleges for further discussion. This recommendation is a part of the Shared Governance process that will need to go to Deans, Directors, Chairs and subsequent committee.

Honors College Fee: The current budget for the Honors College is \$28,573 that supports supplies, services and part-time labor to provide for the 998 students currently enrolled in the Honors College. It is for this reason that the Honors College is seeking input on the potentiality of assessing a \$50 fee per semester for Honors students. The fee would be assessed for both fall and spring terms but not for summer. The added fees are estimated to generate \$40,000 each semester (\$80,000 annually) that would be utilized for Study Abroad grants, Research/Creative Work grants, and other cutting-edge student programming throughout the year. Currently the Honors College does not have the resources to cover Study Abroad Grants for students. The return on the student's investment has the potential to be great (Example: A student may pay the \$50 per semester/\$400 over 4 years and receive funding valued at \$1500 - \$2000). Astate does not want to sacrifice the quality of the Honors College for the quantity of students enrolled. Ms. Rebecca Oliver reports that the Honors College is at a point to consider a fee, the fee would accomplish a lot for our students, Dr. Cooksey believes the time is right, and the current resources have not kept up with the rapid growth of the Honors College. The assessment of the Honors College fee does not go to Shared Governance but is voted on by the Executive Council. Ms. Oliver requests that representatives speak to colleagues in their perspective colleges for further feedback.

General Education Petitions: Three students have requested to take HNRS Ethics in the Health Professions instead of Philosophy as a general education requirement. All three students are pre-med majors. All representatives present voted to allow this substitution.

Spring 2015 Honors Courses: HNRS Special Topics "American Comedy in Literature and Film (Hendershot), HNRS Special Topics "WWII & The Western Front (Oliver), and HNRS Special Topics "Cultural Experiences in Spain (Wilkinson, Khramstova) were approved by the Honors Council.

Honors Lanjaron Study Abroad Update (Spring 2015): Seventeen students and two faculty members completed this experience last year with favorable outcomes. Students will have the opportunity to go again this year. (Did not hear the number of students attending)

Honors WWII & The Western Front Study Abroad (Spring/May 2015): There are currently 15 people who have registered for this study abroad experience. There will be a total of 16 day with 14 days being considered 'boots on the ground' for students and faculty. Ms. Oliver is leading faculty for this trip.

Honors Advisor List 2014-2015: All departments have submitted names for their Honors Advisors for the upcoming year except Fine Arts and Social Work. Dr. Joe Bonner will pursue information on the representative from Fine Arts and Dr. Debbie Shelton will pursue the advisor from Social Work and submit the names to Ms. Oliver.

Honors Alumni Affinity Group: The Honors Alumni Affinity Group is a proposed group that would consist of the most recent Honors alumni. Members of this group could/would sponsor graduating students who had a significant experience in the Honors College with either a gold or silver medal to be worn at graduation.

Upcoming Events: Representatives were reminded of several important dates listed in the agenda.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for October 30, 2014 at 8:15 a.m. in the Honors Classroom

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

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Shelton