

Minutes
Arkansas State University Honors Council
8:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 04, 2017 – Honors Seminar Room

Present: Ms. Rebecca Oliver, Mr. Chad Whatley, Jennifer Salo, Beth Hood, Debbie Shelton, Maureen Dolan, Erick Chang, Nikesha Nesbitt, Robert Morris, Jeonghee Choi, Deborah Chappel-Traylor and Holly Hall.

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m.

Minutes – Minutes from February 07, 2017 meeting were read and approved. (Hood/Hall/All in favor)

Fall 2017 Honors Admissions Update – There are 529 Honors Freshmen Admits as of March 14, 2017. This is 25 students higher than this time last year.

Honors Orientation (April 10) – There are 151 students signed up for Honors Orientation. Some walk-ins and late registrations are to be expected. Last year, 179 students attended. Oliver will send a list of advisors who will be present. Oliver reminds Council Representatives to send their best advisors. Some students will declare majors during Honors Orientation based on the advisor's aptitude of their programs of study. In the past, the challenge has been having advisors that are less than the best that have not been able to answer student questions. Oliver also request each college send enough advisors as to decrease wait times for students and to facilitate staying on schedule. Honors Orientation is a true orientation process. The morning will include sessions, advising and registration for courses. Oliver will send the schedule and numbers expected when available. Whatley is working on room selections. The Open House will be hosted in the Honors Living/Learning Community.

Honors Special Topics Course Proposal for Fall 2017 (CNHP Interdisciplinary Course) – The honors course "Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice" proposed by Dr. Susan Motts was approved (Hood-motion/Dolan-second/all in favor).

Honors-Option Course Application - The new Honors-Option Course Application has launched. Oliver reports there has been no problems noted. Students have not reported any difficulties with faculty completing the form as requested.

Honors Council Reorganization Proposal – There were three changes approved by the Honors Council during the last meeting in regards to the number of Honors Council Representative. Liberal Arts & Communication requested three representatives, Nursing & Health Professions requested two representatives, and Science & Mathematics requested two representatives from the proposal. The proposal was heard on March 01, 2017. Dr. Cooksey has asked for more discussion on the proposal. The proposal must have been tabled in SGOC as there has been no confirmation of approval yet.

Honor Recognition Ceremony and Reception (May 12) – There will be two ceremonies this year as the event has grown. There are 174 Honor graduates compared to 112 last year. CNHP, Ed, Ag/Eng, and LAC ceremony will take place at 4:00 pm with the following colleges to follow at 6:00pm on May 12, 2017. There will be a reception for students, families and community leaders. Invitations are being sent with the times for each college's ceremony.

Honors Medals Campaign – Oliver has received 10 gifts so far for Honors Medals. There are currently 16 sponsored medals. Oliver will send a list to the Council of sponsored medals. Medals are a great venue for colleges, departments, faculty or advisors to recognize honor students.

Honors Italy Study Abroad (May 20 – June 01) – The Italy trip is less than 50 days away. Faculty and students are excited to have access to this experience.

Honors Experience Grants – Whatley reports the goal next year is to double the amount of Honors Experience Grants given. During the 2015-16 year, \$40,000 was awarded while \$60,000 was given during the 2016-17 year. It has been a quiet year but will increase in rigor when the Study Abroad Programs open up. During summer, funding support will be given to graduating seniors.

Competitive Fellowships & Scholarships – Salo reports a new Fulbright year begins in March. The first Friday in March, Salo will host Fulbright Friday as a kick-off day for applications. The scholarship is for rising seniors who are moving towards graduate education. The applicant must be a US citizen and have completion of bachelors' degree by 2018. The Rhodes is open to all majors with no required GPA level. The scholarship provides full funding for study abroad for one year for experiential learning. There is one student who has applied for the Rhodes Scholarship for the upcoming year. October 06, 2017 is the deadline for students to apply.

A-State is proud to have three semi-finalists for the Fulbright Scholarship, Arnell Jones (Columbia), Desiree Green (Spain), and Cameron Neely (Senegal).

Salo reports students are most motivated by recommendations from faculty members.

Miscellaneous – Dr. Joe Bonner is retiring. Dr. Bonner has taught Honors Fine Arts for many years as well as serving as Honors Council Representative. The Honors Council is appreciative of his input during his tenure and wish him well.

Cross-listing of Honors Courses – Oliver reminds faculty to cross-list courses when applicable. To cross-list a section of Honors within a course, a section must have a number of seats available and a section for Honors. Oliver will set the number for the course.

Next Meeting: The next meeting dates and times will be decided by incoming representative in August.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Shelton