

Minutes
Arkansas State University Honors Council
8:15a.m. Thursday, November 19, 2015 – Honors Classroom

Present: Ms. Rebecca Oliver, Mr. Chad Watley, Dr. Brandon Kemp, Dr. Beth Hood, Dr. Holly Hall, Dr. Debbie Shelton, Dr. Maureen Dolan, Dr. Nikesha Nesbitt, Dr. Deborah Trayor, Dr. Phillip Tew and Ms. Caitlyn Crowder.

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m.

Minutes – Minutes from the October 01, 2015 were reviewed and approved with edits. Edits include the change from 44 students who opted out to 32 students who opted out in the Honors College Fee section of the minutes. An additional edit corrected the fee of the Honors tailgate tickets from \$10 to \$7. Dr. Hood made the motion to accept the minutes with edits and Dr. Hall seconded the motion.

Fall 2016 Recruiting – Osceola students were on campus yesterday. Emily Hill brought the AP English students to meet with Dr. Crowder's class. This interaction was very successful. We have had the best Previews Days this year as compared to the last 4 – 5 years. The Honors Living Learning Community has gained a lot of one-on-one attention from students and families.

There are currently 347 honors freshman. This is about the average of 75% same day/same week as last week so we are on target. A newly formatted brochure targeted towards social media will be mailed to students on December 01, 2015 as a new marketing tool.

Dr. Hood has heard concerns from her constituents that the number of African-American students eligible for Honors may be decreased due to the new GPA requirements. Ms. Oliver confirmed that the university witnessed the decreased in the past when the GPA was increased to 2.7 and states there has been little success to change. Dr. Hood requests a breakdown of demographics of honors students. Dr. Hall states that she would like to see a breakdown by selected majors. Ms. Oliver states that the data will be pulled on December 01, 2015.

Packages will be mailed to students on December 02, 2015 and it is hopeful to have 85-90% admitted to the university by holiday break.

Preview Day in the Spring may be used to visit departments.

AState Scholars may be increased to 30 students from the reported number of 25 students.

As of Tuesday, November 17, 2015, there were 30 students actively in the system with application processes. Thirty-seven students met the criteria, but not all will apply.

Course Proposal – The course proposal HNRS 291V and HNRS 311V is a unique study abroad course developed by Drs. Myleea Hill and Marko Korkeakoski to Spain and surrounding areas. There are 2 faculty members who will be attending. There are 13 honors students attending and 7 non-honors students. The group will depart on February 17, 2016 and return on May 10, 2016. There are 4 weeks of online assignments that are completed in advance of the departure. Dr. Hood made the motion to accept this course with Dr. Traylor confirming with a second to the motion.

Honors Experience Grant - Mr. Chad Whatley reports that there are currently 7 applications in process for the HEG monies with 3 applications for study-abroad courses. An example of the current HEG includes an application from a student for study in the Netherlands, 2 science majors with projects who request to present their work in Philadelphia and one student with the request to travel to Kenya to tutor music to elementary students. Mr. Whatley reports that the HEG is off to a great start and anticipates more applications in the spring for summer opportunities. The applications are without deadlines at this time.

Honors Brainy Break – Mr. Chad Whatley reports this is a new experience available for honors students this year. This program is funded by the Honors Fees. Honors Brainy Week will be a trip to Washington accompanied by Mr. Whatley and Ms. Oliver. There is a competitive process for students to apply. Currently 10 students have applied and the deadline for applications is November 30, 2015. Faculty are hoping to take 28 students. Students will be responsible for meals only. Mr. Whatley will get security clearances for students to attend the attractions. Dr. Cooksey stated that faculty would receive the same benefits as students such as travel and lodging cost but would not be paid to attend. There is no academic credit being given for this program.

Honors Orientation – There will be no Honors Reception Day in March 2016. By March, most of the outreach is completed therefore the Reception Day is not nearly as essential as it has been in the past for recruitment. Seventy students have signed up for Honors Orientation on April 8, 2016. This is the last day for Honors registration. This is a day-long event for families. Students will register for courses and be introduced to the Honors Program and benefits. No other Arkansas university offers this requirement. It is expected that 150-175 students will be present with a capped total of 200 students. Interested students and families have voiced interest in seeing the Honors Living Learning Community.

Next Meeting – February 25, 2016 at 8am in the Honors Classroom.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Shelton

