

Honors Council Meeting #1 for 2017
Tuesday, September 26, 2017
3:30pm, Undergraduate Studies Conf Room

All present except: Dr. Hall, Dr. Hood, Dr. Chang and Dr. Kehr

1. Elect Secretary: Dixie Keyes
2. Fall 2017 Enrollment update reviewed
 - a. Comments from Rebecca:
 - i. ACT average went up slightly
 - ii. Average high school GPA also went up a bit
 - iii. Yet...smaller number of freshmen
 - iv. Strong retention in honors college (from 97-98%)
 - b. Fall recruitment underway
 - i. We don't use "super scores."
 - ii. A-State scholar website is being tested
 - iii. We previewed the listing of Institutional Scholarships for 2018-19
 - iv. Emphasize applications be in by December 1, 2017!! Will help students get all possible scholarships.
 - v. Many of the scholarships (excellence, leadership, pride) are automatic given appropriate ACT score.
 - vi. A-State Scholar requires more (30 each year)—writing, letters of recommendation. Is competitive. Honors College organizes this entire process (recruiters, financial aid, and others). Those on the waitlist may get it if others choose not to attend A-State.
 - vii. Senior Preview Day on Oct 28th has been cancelled (it's a ACT day)
 - viii. New event: LR Recruitment Event Oct 17th
3. Spring 2018 Honors Course
 - a. HNRS Special Topics from Hendershot course to approve
 - i. "Psychoanalysis and Rock and Roll"
 - ii. We reviewed the course and Rebecca asked for questions.
 - iii. Moved to approve: Dr. Ford; Seconded: Pam Towery
 - iv. All in favor—unanimous approval
4. Honors Experience Grants (student fee money) & Brainy Break
 - a. Accessible on website; faculty recommendation
 - b. Most involve study abroad experiences
 - c. We heard about the DC trip Chad organized—"Brainy Break" during Spring Break
 - d. Application for Brainy Break will be opened next week
 - e. Rebecca provided some history of Brainy Break—the study abroad experiences showed that our students also need to explore America.
5. Honors Council Representative role
 - a. Honors Option—vetting opportunities in our program areas that is higher order thinking, appropriately "more" for honors students, opportunities to help them

grow and expand. Call Rebecca if you review an option form that isn't quite up to par.

- b. Question from Ruth: order of signatures—should we not sign if all others haven't signed? Be sure faculty member signs before you do; other circumstances up to you.
 - c. Communication—we will see all communications to honors students.
6. Competitive Fellowships & Scholarships
- a. Jennifer—explained her goal is to increase participation with these opportunities
 - b. Last spring—first 3 Fulbright winners
 - c. 12 Fulbright applicants this fall; deadline on Oct 6th
 - d. 12 other students applying for other national scholarships.
 - e. Jennifer will speak about these to any group; faculty is her biggest ally
 - f. Gilman, Fulbright, Rhodes, TFA, and NSF graduate fellowship coming up
 - g. Fellowship opportunities are not just for honors students
7. Upcoming Events
- a. Tailgate on Oct 14th—we are invited to drop by
 - b. Advisors: program faculty are primary advisors; honors college are secondary advisors
 - c. Not all honors students have priority registration (must be currently enrolled and good academic standing); it's an earned privilege. They will ask for advising appts earlier than peers.
 - d. Honors Orientation (in the spring) is April 9
8. Remembering Shelby fund
- a. Anonymous donor—A-State needs to raise \$10,000 to receive \$20,000. Would be enough for an endowment for \$1000 a year.
 - b. Pass on news to colleges
 - c. Honors students are planning for a fundraising event for this in October—a Baggo event.
9. Future Meetings or other information
- a. Chad—we will begin to see other emails (student-centered activities, etc)—new honors council members.
 - b. Nov 7 Feb 13 Apr 3 (all Tuesdays at 330)