

Minutes
Arkansas State University Honors Council
8:15a.m. Thursday, February 25, 2016 – Honors Classroom

Present: Ms. Rebecca Oliver, Mr. Chad Whatley, Dr. Brandon Kemp, Dr. Beth Hood, Dr. Jeonghee Choi, Dr. Deborah Chappel-Traylor, Dr. Debbie Shelton, Dr. Maureen Dolan, Dr. Joe Bonner, Dr. Maureen Dolan and Ms. Caitlyn Crowder.

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

Minutes – There were several edits to the minutes from the November meeting. Minutes will be approved with edits as per motion by Hood with second by Crowder. Shelton will make correction and send amended minutes to Ms. Oliver.

Fall 2016 Admissions Update – There are 499 Honors Freshman as of 2/23/2016. This is 74.6% the same time last year, therefore we remain on target. There are approximately 220 – 240 additional students expected in the upcoming fall.

The Selection Committee met in December and awarded 30 A-State Scholars who met the criteria of 32ACT/3.75 GPA along with a complete application process including an essay and two letters of recommendation. The top 30 students were selected with an alternate list that includes nine. There have not been any scholarships given to the alternates at this time, perhaps after May 01 that process will begin. It is expected that some alternates will be offered the A-State Scholar award. Placing students on an alternate list keeps interest at A-State. All A-State Scholars and alternates are eligible for the A-State Excellence award along with others.

Honors Orientation – Postcards will be mailed tomorrow (February 26) inviting students to participate in the Honors Orientation on April 8, 2016. The postcard directs the student to the website where they may register for the Honors Orientation. The New Student Registration mail will go out approximately 2 – 3 days after the postcard. There will be no Honors Reception Day this year as the Honors Orientation will incorporate the activities from the reception event. There will be a full day of activities beginning at 9am and ending at 4pm that include students registering for courses on their various smart devices (phones, ipad, etc). ITS will increase the efforts on broad width to allow for the registration process. It is hopeful that students will use this information/training in the future to look for and register for courses. There are 130-150 students expected to attend the Orientation. An open house at the Honors Living Learning Center is scheduled for students and parents. There will also be a campus wellness session. Students and parents will split for lunch. Students will go to advising while parents dine and parents will attend parenting sessions while students dine. Topics included in the parenting session include, “How to Support Your Student” and “How to Let Students Handle their Finances”. This is valuable information for parents and beneficial to students. Honors Ambassadors and Pack Leaders will provide assistance throughout the day. Pack leaders have been asked to provide assistance but not to give advice on courses or instructors. Faculty will need to report at 12:30pm.

Fall 2016 Honors Courses – The list is currently a work in progress. All faculty are encouraged to submit courses for Honors.

Honors Special Topics Course Proposal for Fall 2016 – The course proposal presented by Dr. Cyndy Hendershot titled, “The American 1970s in fiction and film” was approved with a motion by Hood and second by Crowder.

Honors Brainy Break – Brainy Break will still on the schedule for March 24 – 31, 2016. There are currently 27 students and 3 faculty/staff attending. Oliver, Whatley, and Salo will be accompanying the students during this week. The cost has been approximated at \$750 for students to attend per the Honors Experience Grant. The basic itinerary includes trips to the Natural Mall, Capitol, White House, and Holocaust Museum. Students may also be permitted to visit the Pentagon and West Wing.

A new development by Mr. Whatley includes a dinner with A-State alumni who work in the Washington infrastructure. There have been 15 – 20 alumni contacted with commitments made by several impressive A-State alumni to have dinner with the group of students.

Honors Experience Grants (HEG) – During this first year, there have been a total of 18 HEGs awarded. Thirteen have been paid with a total of \$14388.61 with five outstanding. Some of the outstanding HEGs are dependent upon acceptance at conferences. All Honor College Fees that are not used are carried forward. Sam Holt built a course around the honors experience in Kenya, therefore the course will appear on his transcript. Students have experienced travel to Philadelphia, Little Rock, Spain, Kenya and Italy via the HEGs.

Honors Alumni Medal Campaign – The Honors College is working with Advancement services to reach young alumni. The alumni will be given the opportunity to sponsor an Honors Graduate with a medal to be worn at graduation. Gold medals are \$50 and silver medals are \$25. The student will be given the opportunity to know the sponsor as the name of the sponsor will be included in the box that houses the medal. It is hopeful that Advancement will reach out to alumni who have graduated in the last 30 years.

Upcoming Events – Junior/Senior Preview Day (March 5)

Honors Orientation (April 8)

Honors Priority Registration (March 28 – April 1)

Honors Recognition Ceremony & Reception (May 13)

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2016 at 8:15am in the Honors Classroom.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Shelton

