

Minutes

Arkansas State University Honors Council

8:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 07, 2017 – Honors Seminar Room

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

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m.

Minutes – Minutes from November 15, 2016 meeting were read and approved. (Hall/Dolan)

Fall 2017 Honors Admissions Update – There are 509 Honors Freshmen Admits as of January 31, 2017. This is slightly higher than this time last year. A phone-a-thon was held last night to call the 509 Admits. There were a total of 390 calls placed last night with the remaining students being called tonight. There were a lot of messages left. Any type of contact with the student or family is positive. There will be two attempts for every AState Scholar student. There were approximately 100 ambassadors assisting in the phone-a-thon.

Honors Orientation (April 10) – Honors Orientation is a true orientation with sessions, advising and registration for courses. Students are taught to register themselves with the use of their phones. The challenge in the past has been the need for more advisors to meet the needs of the students. Another challenge has been having advisors that are less than the best that have not been able to answer student questions. When students and family members leave with unanswered questions, the outcome is less than favorable for all. Ambassadors have done an amazing job in the past and overall student evaluations have been favorable.

Fall 2017 Honors Courses – The first draft of honor courses is out with the second draft appearing next week. Colleges should be encouraged to develop new courses and to cross-list courses when possible. If cross-listing, Honors must have a section on the syllabus describing the honors requirements.

Honors Special Topics Course Proposal for Fall 2017 (Hendershoot) – The honors course “Science Fiction and Fantasy in American Literature and Film” proposed by Dr. Hendershoot was approved (Hood-motion/Bonner – second/all in favor). Ms. Oliver will assure the error on item #6 is corrected on the proposal form.

Honors-Option Course Application DRAFT – The Honors-Option Course Application needs to be updated to include outcomes. The desire is to keep the form limited to two pages with the ability to attach documentation if needed. The question from Dr. Chappel-Traylor is where student learning outcomes originate for honors courses. Ms. Oliver states she is currently working on the honors student learning outcomes.

Comments include “it is better to keep honors option outcomes broader and not course specific but to align with program assessment outcomes as specific programs have accreditation requirements”.

On the DRAFT form, it is decided to leave off the last box until agreement is reached on verbiage. Ms. Oliver will send edits for approval via email. The last box must be used as its’ intent is for student outcomes. The second page of the draft is important for students as it becomes part of their contractual commitment to the course. The plan is to use the forms in the Fall but there may be changes after the Fall semester if needed. Ms. Oliver states she may have to give extensions to students to get forms that are filled out correctly and thoroughly. Ms. Oliver states she will send out an email to faculty making them aware of the more rigorous format of the form. Ms. Oliver requests all forms be typed in order to be processed.

Honors Council Reorganization Proposal – There are three changes to be confirmed in the proposed number of Honors Council Representative from existing college representatives. Liberal Arts & Communication request three representatives, Nursing & Health Professions requests two representatives, and Science & Mathematics request two representatives from the proposal. All representatives are in favor. Ms. Oliver reminds the council of the need to wait upon SGOC approval before any actual changes can occur. The motion is made with a second to move the proposal to SGOC (Hood/Choi).

Honors Experience Grants – Mr. Whatley reports there are 21 or 22 HEGs processed for the upcoming Italy trip. He also reports of two HEG proposals for Nicaragua, two HEG proposals for Costa Rica and one for Boliva. Ms. Oliver reminds the Council that the London trip hosted by the College of Nursing and Health Professions is eligible for the HEG.

Competitive Fellowships & Scholarships – Ms. Salo reports there were nine Fulbright Scholarships candidates with three reaching semi-finalist status. The outcomes will not be known until May. Fulbright outreach continues through the month of March. Faculty input is important to students. Ms. Salo reports there were three nominees for the Truman Scholarship and two nominees for the Goldwater Scholarship this year. She reports the problem is often the lack of follow-through by the students. The Udall Scholarship Application is due in mid-March and is valued at \$7000. Ms. Salo reminds the Council to send any interested students to her.

Upcoming Events – Transfer Preview Day (February 10) – There are over 90 students registered so far.
Senior Preview Day (March 4)

Honors Recognition Ceremony & Reception (May 12) – Council and faculty are invited and encouraged to attend.

Honors Italy Study Abroad (May 20 – June 1)

Miscellaneous – There are 39 students completing the Honor Senior Thesis. This is a record number of students completing the thesis requirement for Honors. Most will complete the work in May, two will complete in August and one completed in December 2016.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for April 04, 2017 at 8 am.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Shelton