

Minutes

Arkansas State University Honors Council

8:00 a.m. Tuesday, November 15, 2016 – Honors Seminar Room

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

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

Minutes – Minutes from September 27, 2016 meeting were read and approved. (Hood/Nesbitt)

Create@State – Emily Devereux spoke to the Council regarding the upcoming Create@State scheduled for April 20-21, 2017. She explained the mission this year is to incorporate all majors with all colleges represented. Ms. Devereux informed the Council more faculty support may be needed in the form of judging presentations and to be on hand for event support. Governor Asa Hutchinson has been invited along with the ADHE Director, Marie Malcolm.

The first afternoon, April 20th, will consist of poster presentations. This session will be open for community leaders. The plan is to combine community leaders with faculty for judging posters. Career Services will be available for students during this session. There will be two workshops available for attendees this year. One workshop will be titled “Applying for Action Fund”. The Student Research Council will have a presentation. Oral sessions will begin on April 21st. Oral sessions will be different this year with awards being given by community industries. The awards ceremony will take place the afternoon of April 21st. The portal for abstracts will be available for submissions after the holiday break. All judging will be done electronically this year.

Bill Smith has spoken with Ms. Devereux for the need of a continuous feed on the AState website for student and faculty research. Such projects as Faculty/Student Research of the Month may be available. Highlighted funded research could be a component of the website.

Fall 2017 Recruiting – Ms. Oliver reports as of November 08, 2016, there were 313 Honors Freshmen admits. Of this number, approximately 42-44% will commit. Senior Preview Days are on par from last year with approximately the same number of attendees. Congratulatory welcome packages will be mailed the first week of December. The recipients of the packages will be admitted to University Honors so students will know of this status in December. There is not a lot of difference in instate/out state numbers at this time. The results of the targeted email campaign may not be known for several months.

Honors Italy 2017 – Ms. Oliver reports there are currently 37 students enrolled along with 5 faculty/staff members.

Honors Experience Grants – Mr. Whatley reports that at least one half of students attending the Honors Italy trip have applied for HEG grants which will be funded from last year's budget. Mr. Whatley reports his office is exploring other opportunities for students to use the monies collected. With decreased staffing in the Study Abroad department, a decrease in student involvement is to be expected. Student interest will increase once the office is staffed again with a Director.

Competitive Fellowships & Scholarships – Ms. Salo reports she is planning a reception for volunteers and for students to be recognized. All fall applications have been completed. There were a total of 32 applications submitted in 2016. Ms. Salo has set a goal for 40 applicants in 2017.

Honors Council Representative role/Honors Advisor Role – Dr. Traylor reports the role of Honors Council Representative fits well with her role of Associate Dean allowing her time to visit with students and observe their project. With the new college structure, more representatives may be needed to better represent departments/schools.

Dr. Hood reports she examines the syllabus from the student to be sure there is a section for the Honors work. She proposes an extra report or something to substantiate the honors work.

Dr. Dolan reports sometimes there is not enough structure in a course to support honors work. Criteria may need to be developed. Dr. Dolan asks who can teach honors courses. Ms. Oliver states no adjunct faculty should be teaching honors courses nor should first year faculty. Some exceptions may exist for the first year faculty members but recommendations for teaching honors courses should be supported by the Department Chair or Dean. Ms. Oliver will send letters to the Department Chairs and Deans to draw attention to the quality of instruction provided in honors courses.

Questions/suggestions were discussed by the Council on the Honors Option Form. Ms. Langley, student representative, states it is sometimes difficult to find faculty to sign the forms. Discussion of adding a second page to the form for student outcomes was addressed. Ms. Oliver reports an online process may be considered.

Reorganization of Honors Council (shared governance) – Any changes in the Honors Council structure will go through the shared governance process.

Upcoming Events – A-State Scholar Selection will occur December 5th – 7th, 2016. Honors Orientation will take place on April 10th, 2017.

Miscellaneous – Ms. Oliver reports she has a meeting with the Education Dean/Department Chair. The Honors Budget for fiscal year 2018 will include a request to change Ms. Salo's position from part-time to full-time and to add another staff member. Also a request will be made to potentially upgrade Mr. Whatley's position. The renovated Honors space is also complete at this time.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for February 07, 2017 at 8 am.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Shelton