

Departmental Honors Program Council

Meeting: Wednesday, September 11, 2024

5:00 p.m., via Zoom

**** MINUTES ****

Honors directors present: Alice Wright (Anthropology), Heather Waldroup (Art), Matt Estep (Biology), Cele Burt (Walker College of Business), Jennifer Gray (Communication), Stefan Frisch (Communication Sciences and Disorders), Kevin Warner (Dance), Cole Edwards (Geological and Environmental Sciences), Jessica Martell (GWSS/Global Studies/IDS), Marian Williams (Government and Justice Studies), Michael Behrent (History), Adrienne Erazo (Languages, Literatures, and Cultures), Eric Marland (Mathematical Sciences), Randall Reed (Philosophy and Religion), James Sherman (Physics and Astronomy), Christopher Holden (Psychology), Emily Dakin (Social Work), Matthew Wright (Sociology), Rebecca Witter (Sustainable Development), Rita Joyner (Sustainable Technology and the Built Environment), Paulette Marty (Theatre).

Honors College staff present: Vicky Klima, Heather Waldroup

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Approval of minutes from April 10, 2024 (Cole, Stefan 2nd) – passed with five abstentions.
- III. New business: curriculum proposals from Dance Studies.
 - a. Kevin Warner presented several curriculum proposals for Dance Studies, reducing the thesis course to 2 credits, adding a required one-credit thesis prep course, and making some changes to the program's Bulletin description.
 - b. A motion was made to approve the proposals with some suggested edits (Matt, Alice 2nd) and was passed unanimously.
- IV. Reports and Reminders:
 - a. Vicky explained that students also pursuing University honors do not have to submit the thesis application form until enrolling in the **second** thesis credit – to account for the many programs that have a required one-credit thesis prep course. In this way, registering for the thesis credits is now separate from applying for the thesis project. Discussion:
 - i. Paulette inquired when these were due; answer: in the third week of classes.
 - ii. Rebecca inquired: is one credit hour enough to develop a prospectus, research questions, etc?

- iii. Alice note: in Anthropology, the department does not require the one-credit thesis prep/independent study as a courtesy to faculty members.
- iv. Heather stressed the need to count thesis hours towards future release time as departments are working on their foundational documents.
- v. Adrienne noted that honors thesis supervision is included in her department's promotion and tenure guidelines.
- vi. Vicky noted that the thesis hours can be split, and suggested having clarity about what will be done/assessed.
- vii. Alice and Paulette shared useful documents from their programs and stressed that having clear guidelines can help with faculty workload. Heather added these to the DHPC Google Drive under 'resources':
 - 1. [Alice: Syllabus for a senior honors thesis course](#)
 - 2. [Paulette: Timeline for an honors thesis project](#)
- b. Curriculum proposals are anticipated from Art, Anthropology, Geography and Planning, and Sociology.
 - i. Heather suggested that programs consider changing thesis credits from (3) to (1-3) if not already.
- V. Adjournment (Randy, Alice 2nd) – unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted for review this 12 September, 2024, by Heather Waldroup.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 9, 2024, 5:00 p.m., via Zoom