

Departmental Honors Program Council

Meeting: Wednesday, September 1, 2021

12:00 p.m./5:00 p.m., via Zoom

**** MINUTES ****

Summary of reminders, new initiatives and strategic goals:

- **Honors Council is now officially Departmental Honors Program Council!**
- **Jeff is convening the Honors College Council: will provide strategic planning for the Honors College. Send your nominations!**
- **The Honors College is ordering more medals for Departmental Honors Program graduates. More news to come!**

Noon Meeting Notes:

Honors directors present: Mira Waits (Art), Lynn Sieffermann (Biology), Libby Puckett (Chemistry), Lori Medders (Walker College of Business), Adrienne Erazo (Languages, Literatures, and Cultures), Bill Cook (Mathematical Sciences), Andrew Smith (Psychology), Jennifer Zwetsloot (Public Health), Cameron Lippard (Sociology), Reza Foroughi (Sustainable Technology and the Built Environment).

Honors College staff present: Jeff Vahlbusch, Heather Waldroup

- I. Welcome and introductions, including new Directors: Adrienne Erazo on a one-semester replacement for Jean-Francois Fournier on OCSA, Jennifer Zwetsloot, Cameron Lippard on a one-semester replacement for Ellen Lamont on OCSA, and Reza Foroughi.
- II. Approval of minutes from March 3, 2021: no corrections; approved.
- III. Reports and reminders:
 - a. Update from Jeff Vahlbusch: update your CV's! The Honors Council is now the Departmental Honors Program Council, which will continue to oversee and support the development of new honors programs at the departmental level. We now have an additional new council, The Honors College Council. Both are in the

Faculty Handbook and formally established by Faculty Senate and the Board of Trustees. The Honors College Council is a university-wide council for which Jeff is currently recruiting. The Honors College Council will have faculty representation from each college and the library, and student representation. Please feel free to send Jeff names, including self-nominations, for potential members. The Honors College Council will focus on strategic planning, stock-taking about honors, and curriculum reform for the Honors College. Both the Departmental Honors Program Council and the Honors College Council will help us move forward with honors on campus.

- b. Two related questions for honors directors to explore now:
 - 1. Is your website up to date with the current honors director's name and contact info, etc.? If not, how can the Honors College help with this?
 - 2. Does your program description in the Undergraduate Bulletin reflect what you are doing, including accurately describing all requirements of your program? If not, this can be addressed with an AP&P proposal; Heather can help with this.
- c. NC Docks: this is an excellent option, though not required, for departmental honors students. The Library can help address questions about intellectual property/copyright, etc. Lori Medders will organize a meeting with Agnes Gambill from the Library for her junior seminar and will invite other students to attend.
- d. Overall: what would you like from Departmental Honors Program Council? How can we best support you? Suggestions (to be addressed at future Departmental Honors Program Council meetings):
 - 1. Recruiting and retention: everyone does this differently. What are some strategies? (Bill C.)
 - 2. Special course forms and honors contracts: What are some strategies for managing these? (Libby P.)
 - 3. Heather will also look into inviting Agnes Gambill to a future Council meeting.
- e. The Honors College will continue to provide medals for departmental honors program graduates!

IV. New Business

- a. Any forthcoming curriculum proposals?
 1. Possibly from Art, Biology, and Chemistry, in addition to a new (possible) program.

V. The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.

5 p.m. Meeting Notes

Honors directors present: Jennifer Gray (Communication), Stefan Frisch (Communication Sciences and Disorders), Alice McRae (Computer Science), Marianne Adams (Dance), Herman van Werkhoven (Exercise Science), Cole Edwards (Geological and Environmental Sciences), Michael Behrent (History), Randall Reed (Philosophy and Religion), James Sherman (Physics and Astronomy), Emily Dakin (Social Work), Brian Burke (Sustainable Development), Paulette Marty (Theatre).

Honors College staff present: Jeff Vahlbusch, Heather Waldroup

- I. Welcome and introductions, including new Directors: Randall Reed.
- II. Approval of minutes from March 3, 2021: no corrections; approved.
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 - b. Two related questions for honors directors to explore now:
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2. Does your program description in the Undergraduate Bulletin reflect what you are doing, including accurately describing all requirements of your program? If not, this can be addressed with an AP&P proposal; Heather can help with this.
- c. NC Docks: this is an excellent option, though not required, for departmental honors students. The Library can help address questions about intellectual property/copyright, etc. Herman asked why students would/should then submit, if issues can arise later. It seems time to have Agnes Gambill from the Libraries attend a meeting of Departmental Honors Program Council.
- d. Discussion: what would you like from Departmental Honors Program Council? How can we best support you? Suggestions (to be addressed at future Departmental Honors Program Council meetings):
 1. Paulette: hearing generally from others about what has been useful/what has worked for them in terms of effectively leading a departmental honors program.
 2. Alice: building a community with other honors program directors.
 3. Stefan: an overview of the general duties of a departmental honors program director.
 4. Marianne: how can we make the work feel less invisible? How can we provide guidance to our chairs re: how to recognize the work of an honors director?
 5. Brian: learning from the community: perhaps we might budget part of each meeting time to discussing issues and posing questions to the group.
 6. Michael: because most students do honors contracts for the departmental honors program coursework requirements, how do departments handle the instructional dimension of their programs?
 7. Paulette: can we revisit the structure of honors contracts? (Jeff noted that there are lots of conversations about this at the national level; encouraged all to think qualitatively vs quantitatively; Cole shared the form he uses – added to Google Drive.)
- e. The Honors College will continue to provide medals for departmental honors program graduates!

IV. The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted for review this 7 September 2021, by Heather Waldroup.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be October 6, 2021, at 12:00 p.m./5:00 p.m. via Zoom.