

Honors and Scholars Council Minutes  
May 9, 2018 3-5 pm  
Education Building Room 208

Present: Angie Capece, Linda Dempf (recorder, chair), Wayne Heisler, Dixita Malatesta, Stephanie Sen, Glenn Steinberg

Excused: Peter Debaecke, Jordan Draper, Amit Rana

1. Minutes from April 18 were approved.

2. Honors Coordinator Report (SS)

The Honors presentations during the Celebration of Student Achievement, held for the first time this year, were a success. Stephanie reported that the presentations were all excellent, and two awards were presented for the best papers/posters. The Honors Banquet was held the same day, and was also a successful event.

Review of Honors applications for incoming freshmen is nearly finished, and the number of students admitted is smaller than last year. Stephanie is reviewing distribution by school. The HSC agreed to the target number of 120 students admitted to the program.

3. External review response (LD) - Kit expressed his sincere thanks to the HSC for their "thoughtful response to the external review and for outlining a process for making immediate progress on the recommendations." He will pass the Council response on to the provost.

4. Issues under review by Committee on Academic Programs (CAP)

Honors minimum GPA proposal – There was an intense and lengthy discussion about raising the minimum Honors GPA. Many factors were considered, including the feedback received from CAP's Qualtrics survey, the Honors student petition, and the oral feedback that CAP gathered at the Student Government meeting. Many points were raised, and the Council agreed that further analysis of this issue is needed, and discussion will continue in fall 2018. The HSC agreed that transfer students and matriculated students already at TCNJ will need a 3.25 GPA to apply to the Honors Program.

Action item: Stephanie will send out an email to the Honors students letting them know that the HSC will be reviewing the minimum GPA issue further, but for now, the minimum Honors GPA will remain at 3.0.

Honors projects proposal document - The title change that was suggested by CAP, to rename the document "honors independent study/research" was discussed, and the Council agreed that "Project" should remain in the title, since it is more encompassing, and more accurately reflects the variety of work that students may undertake. CAP communicated that they are finalizing revisions to the College policy on independent study/research, and will share it with the HSC when it is finished so that we may make sure our document aligns with college policy.

Action item: Linda will report HSC decisions/thoughts to CAP on both GPA and Honors Projects proposal issues.

5. Revision of Honors pillars, mission -The remainder of the meeting was work on the Honors Pillars and Mission statement. The HSC felt that a very good working draft was achieved. Stephanie will add a “draft” watermark to the document and distribute it to Kit and to the faculty teaching Honors FSPs in the fall.