

Honors and Scholars Council Minutes  
September 20, 2017, 1:30-2:50  
Education 207

Present: Linda Dempf (convener and minutes), Jordan Draper, Michael Laudenbach, Amit Rana, Stephanie Sen, Glenn Steinberg

Excused: Dixita Malatesta, Anne Peele

1. The meeting was convened and members introduced themselves. There are still two vacancies on the Committee, for a faculty member and a student representative in the Honors program. These will be filled within the next few weeks when appointments are finalized in Student Government and Faculty Senate.
2. Agenda was approved with additions.
3. Co-chairs were elected. Anne Peele (who was not present, but had agreed to chair if the Council approved) and Linda Dempf were elected co-chairs.
4. Self-study update: Stephanie reported that the Honors Program Self-Study document was distributed to faculty and staff on campus, and to all Honors students. Kit Murphy has initiated the process for an external review by the National Collegiate Honors Council for Spring 2018, which will include an on-site visit.
5. Stephanie announced she will be presenting an introduction to the Honors Program to freshmen next Tuesday and Thursday at 12:30.
6. There was a discussion of the process and policy for counting independent research as Honors courses. Issues raised included: minimum expectations for research and equitable requirements across departments, finding out what different departments are doing, possibility of counting MUSE as the first part of a two-part research experience. This issue will be discussed further at meetings this fall.
7. The minimum GPA required for Honors students was discussed. A suggestion was made to check GPAs at the end of the fourth semester, which is the same time that Honors students are checked to make sure they have completed their second Honors course.  
Action item: Linda/Ann will add this issue to the agenda for discussion at next meeting.
8. Cross-listing of courses was discussed.
9. Stephanie reported she is organizing a social event for Honors students, and asked for input from Honors students.  
Action item: Amit (along with other Honors students he wishes to enlist) will find out from the Honors students what type of social event they would be interested in having.
10. Next meetings will be October 18 (GPA issue on agenda), November 1 (independent research issue on agenda) and November 15 (continue independent research discussion).  
Action item: Linda will make sure everyone has access to the Honors and Scholars Council Google Drive.