

Honors and Scholars Council Minutes
October 18, 2017, 1:30-2:50
Education 207

Present: Peter Debaecke, Linda Dempf (recorder), Anne Peel, Amit Rana, Stephanie Sen, Glen Steinberg
Guest: Tiffany Youngblood, Honors Program Professional Services Specialist
Excused: Adriana Rosman-Askot, Jordan Draper, Dixita Malatesta

1. Minutes from the September 20 meeting were approved.

2. Honors by Contract (HBC) discussion

Council reviewed the revised Honors by Contract document (filename HONORS BY CONTRACT_F17_for_HPC_review) with the following changes

- Move “HBC Projects” section into a separate document for HBC Projects, which will include information on Honors theses/research projects and the rubric. Next meeting we will review the two documents: HBC Course Enhancements Approval Form and HBC Projects Approval Form.
- HBC Course Enhancements proposals will require submission of the course syllabus.
- Suggestion was made to create levels of approval for proposals, and students would have opportunity to revise and resubmit:
 - Approve as proposed
 - Approve provisionally, with suggested changes to be submitted
 - Reject proposal
- HBC Projects will be affiliated with a research or thesis course.
- The rubric for evaluating Honors by Contract was discussed. The scoring range of 0-5 would be reduced to 0-3 scale

Action item: Before the next meeting, Stephanie will draft the two separate HBC documents and modify the rubric with a 0-3 scale, and add verbiage to define more specifically what would be expected to achieve the highest score of “3”. She will post the drafts of the new rubrics to the google drive, then members of the Committee can work backward from the highest “3” level and add verbiage for what constitutes 0,1,2 scores.

3. Discussion of English and Psychology Honors

The Council looked at the English and Psychology department Honors requirements (filename Honors-Project.pdf and Senior Honors Thesis - Psychology.pdf) and discussed criteria for final projects that indicate caliber and that could be used for all departments, such as “posters that meet the standards of a professional conference” and a “multi-chapter thesis.” There could be a separate Honors Projects approval form with a check box and signatures from Honors Coordinator and department chair.

Action item: Stephanie will reach out to department chairs for examples of what should count for criteria.

4. Global requirement for Honors was discussed, and Council reviewed a draft that Stephanie created (filename TCNJ Global Honors Courses.doc). This item was tabled until a later date.