

Honors and Scholars Council Minutes  
February 21, 2018, 1:30-2:50 (students arrive at 1:40)  
Education 207

Present: Peter Debaecke, Linda Dempf (recorder), Anne Peel (chair), Amit Rana, Stephanie Sen, Glenn Steinberg

1. The faculty/staff members of the Committee voted to award the 2017 Outstanding Scholar Award.
2. Announcements and updates (Stephanie)
  - a. Honors by Contract (HBC) Spring 2018– application review and modifications to HBC proposal evaluation.

Stephanie reported there were 56 applications for HBC. Several were declined with instructions to revise and resubmit. 14 applications were declined.

Based on the onsite feedback of the recent external review of the Honors Program, the Committee agreed to eliminate quantitative measures for approving HBC proposals, and to move toward qualitative measures. The HBC document was edited to eliminate percentages, and instead, will ask students to indicate how HBC will enrich the course, how it will enrich their overall education experience, and why this course is a good fit.

Action item: Stephanie will finesse this language of the Honors by Contract document (Item 3, no. 6), and send out to the group for review via email.

The Committee agreed that HBC applications will be accepted starting in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the semester, with a closing deadline of the 4<sup>th</sup> week of class.

In order to give students guidance for proposals, Stephanie will add language to the website that outlines characteristics of the best HBC proposals. She is also planning to hold information sessions for Honors students submitting HBC proposals.

The Committee agreed that taking more than one HBC in a semester will generally be discouraged, but if students would like to do this, a rationale about why they need to take two HBC in one semester will be required.

Joint HBC proposals were discussed (when two students propose one project for a class). The council agreed that as long as students articulate their individual roles on the project, and there are distinct enhancements to the course, then joint proposals may be considered.

Stephanie reported problems with Global enhancement for HBC, and need for clearer articulation of Global requirement.

Celebration of Honors by Contract projects was discussed, with a proposed award for the best HBC project. Possibility of HBC presentations and posters that will be evaluated during the

Celebration of Student Achievement. Honors faculty and the Council could be involved in judging the presentations and posters.

Action item: Stephanie will ask COSA organizers if we can book a time during that day.

Action item: Stephanie will send an email out to Honors HBC students from the fall and spring semester to gauge interest in the HBC award.

b. Possible new course offerings– MAT128, PH203, and PHL103 – tabled to future meeting

c. Alumni networking update – tabled to future meeting.

d. FSPs– proposed guidelines for faculty assignment and new proposed course requirements for instructors. Tabled to next meeting.

Action item: All Council members have a look at the FSP proposal on the google drive for discussion at next meeting March 7.

3. Peer mentoring discussion– tabled to future meeting.

4. Event planning report (Peter and Amit)

Peter and Amit reported on feedback they are gathering from Honors students for several different events to be organized this spring. Under consideration are a baseball game, movie night, game night at Brower Student Center, Escape Room. Requesting space in the Gitenstein Library for Honors students was also discussed.

5. External review

Stephanie gave a summary of exit interview with external reviewers.

6. Retreat to develop new mission and pillars – tabled to next meeting.