

The College of New Jersey
Honors and Scholars Council (HSC)
Meeting Minutes
September 29, 2021

Present: Robyn Abrams, Maria Domingo, Sharif Ferdous, Wayne Heisler, Harriet Hustis, Jennie Sekanics, Rachel Snider.

Excused: Stephen Tomkiel.

Introduction:

The meeting started with the introduction of the members of the council.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair:

Heisler was self-nominated as the chair, and Ferdous was self-nominated as the vice-chair of the council. The council voted to approve them as the chair and the vice-chair, respectively.

Updates & Points for Future Discussion:

Hustis shared the updates of the honors program with the council. There is an increase in honor students (212 as opposed to 150-ish) this year. One reason for this was that there is no SAT requirement, and students were auto-admitted into the honors program based on a 3.5 GPA threshold. There is a proposal for eliminating auto admission into the honors program and move the admittance to the honors program to the Fall of the Freshman year. Council discussed the pros and cons of this proposal.

Discussion topics included the potential hardship of completing the honors requirement for the double-major students and the students in the double concentration majors. The council also discussed rebranding the **honors** program to the **honors and scholars** program. A proposal of including face-to-face interviews or at least a showcase of the students' portfolio in the admission process of the honors program was discussed.