

Minutes (Unapproved)  
University Honors Advisory Council  
21 September 2015  
9-10.30am  
Provost's Conference Room

Present: Bell-Werner, M.; Crk, I.; Roucka, T.; Shustrin, K.; Smallman, L.; Dean, V. (Guest);  
Toberman, I. (guest); Ruckh, E. (chair)

**No quorum**

I. Guest: Jeffrey Waple, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Jeffrey stayed with us for most of our meeting. He foresees multiple ways to enhance the connections between the new honors program and university housing.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. 1 May 2015

B. 31 August 2015

C. 14 September 2015

No minutes were approved due to a lack of a quorum.

III. Updates

A. Responses to questions, etc

Regarding the Meridian selection process, after talking with Director of Admissions: the initial reviews of essays are being done by admissions counselors; they are using a rubric; they have been given only minimal training as to how to use the rubric; the essays are not being run, initially, through Turn-it-in. The Director of Admissions is not closed to using Turn-it-in next year or providing more training on evaluating essays.

B. SIUE Preview (9.30am-1pm, Monday, 12 October 2015)

Kara has lined up Meridian scholars to help the director discuss the Meridian Scholarship and the Honors Program with prospective students and parents.

IV. Old Business: Continued Review of Honors Reform

We continued our discussion of the draft honors reform proposal. During this discussion, Provost Parviz Ansari joined us. He thanked the Council for their work on honors reform over the last year. He expressed his support for the curricular proposal and committed to maintaining the Honors Program's budget during FY16 and for expanding the Honors Program budget for FY17 to support the implementation of the first year of the new curriculum. He asked the Council to begin, in the Spring, to research other models (other than the current semester by semester process) for associating faculty with the Honors Program and releasing them to teach honors courses. He thinks it important to develop a new procedure for assigning faculty to teach honors courses that gives the program both the required faculty expertise and necessary stability. We were encouraged by his support and thanked him for his consistent support for the program and for the reform process during these difficult financial circumstances.