

Minutes
University Honors Advisory Council
26 February 2016

Present: Beckmann, S.; Bell-Werner, M.; Crk, I.; Dean, V. (guest); Seltzer, C.; Shustrin, K.; Smallman, L.; Toberman, I. (guest); Voss, E., Ruckh, E. (chair)

Note: the seat on the UHAC for the School of Nursing is vacant; quorum therefore is 7.

(Eric was late, delayed with students; business proceeded out of order)

I. Old Business: Proposal for assigning attributes to honors courses (Ian and Catherine)

Discussion of proposal for assigning Lincoln Program attributes to honors courses; general discussion of proposal; wide support for the proposal; thanks for Ian's and Catherine's work. Eric Voss made a motion to accept the proposal; Lora Smallman, seconded; passed unanimously. Eric Ruckh will take the proposal to the Faculty Senate General Education Committee on Wednesday, 6 April 2016.

II. Approval of Minutes of 29 January 2016

Kara Shustrin motioned approval of the minutes of 29 January 2016; Sterling Beckmann, seconded. Approved unanimously.

III. Updates from the Director

A. The honors reform proposal (modification of 1H2 and 1R2) was approved by the Faculty Senate on 4 February 2016; it was signed by Interim Chancellor Steve Hansen on 11 February 2016. Eric R. thanked the committee for the work they have done over the last 18 months.

B. The new honors website is live (with a few errors, waiting on editing by ITS). The content of the new website is correct. Eric thanked Christian Strasen for his work last year on the website and for those who reviewed its content [Igor Crk, Ian Toberman, and various honors students (Jacob Bacon, Corey Compton, Bryson Hunsaker)].

C. Eric R. provided an update about the Meridian selection process: offers have been made to 20 students; a waitlist of 26 has been drawn up; students have until 1 May to accept; the final composition of the AY16/17 cohort of Meridian Scholars will not be known until mid-May. Discussion of the pilot procedures of the selection process operating this year.

D. Assessment Plan: Ari and Eric R. have met once; independently working on aspects of a draft plan; will meet again on Monday, 29 February; will subsequently with Assistant Provost Erin Behnen. Aim to have a draft plan to the group by early April.

E. Various members of the Council (Ari, Toni, and Charles) have had, initially, a two-year term; those terms are ending. Eric R. will approach them to see if they are interested in continuing; then consult with respective Deans (or the Faculty Senate Executive Committee) to fill the seats.

F. The Dean of the School of Engineering approached Eric R. with the preliminary idea of developing a pilot program to assess in a comparative way honors engineering students and non-honors engineering students. Preliminary email conversation only; Eric R. expressed interest. Conversation, general, about its value and importance: to develop data about the value of honors education in order to build case for continued budgetary commitments to honors. Igor Crk expressed interest in participating in developing the pilot. Eric R. will set up meeting with Cem K. and Igor to discuss.

G. Meeting of 18 March cancelled, over howls of horror and protestations of the authoritarian tendencies of the director. Eric R. had to nimbly dodge thrown shoes, yet held firm.

IV. New Business: volunteers to help develop a diversity plan

Discussion of what a 'diversity plan,' means. Vick Dean suggested that we develop a diversity statement and set of commitments that specifically express how the Honors Program will actualize the University's commitment to diversity. A thoughtful formulation which won Vicky the opportunity to draft the 'diversity statement.' She will be joined by Eric Voss, Catherine Seltzer, Ian Toberman (perhaps), and one of two students [perhaps Sterling Beckmann and Parth Maheshwari (who will be replacing Sterling, who is graduating this Spring, in AY16/17)]. Discussion about how to proceed. Eric V. suggested that after an initial conversation, they draft something; then the group, with Eric R., will meet with Associate Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion Venessa Brown and get her feedback and suggestions, before revising. Support for these ideas.