

## Minutes

### University Honors Advisory Council

3 March 2017

Present: Bell-Werner, M., Crk, I., Fox, A., Hecht, K., Laux, S., Logue, J., Maheshwari, P., Rawson, K., Toberman, I. (guest), Voss, E., Ruckh, E. (chair)

#### I. Announcements

- A. Council composition: Melodie Rowbotham has been appointed Director of SIUE's Nursing Clinic in Southern Illinois; SON seat on council vacant. Sarah Laux, Program Director for the Kimmel Student Involvement Center will hold Student Affairs' seat on the Council; part of Sarah's responsibilities have been shifted to work with the Honors Program; we look forward to working with our new partner in Student Affairs.
- B. 1R2 Revision: approved by FS, 2 March 2017. Expect the signature of the Chancellor in the next few weeks; will go into effect in Fall 2017.
- C. Meridian/Admissions Update: Pool of Meridian semi-finalists highly diverse: geographically and ethnically. Anecdotal evidence that a high percentage of semi-finalists have SIUE as their first choice; perhaps expect larger numbers of Provost Scholars to be in the Honors Program. Will discuss the possibility of putting up a 6<sup>th</sup> paired section of 120/121 in Fall 17 with Provost. Admissions for Fall 17 closes on 15 March; will begin admitting students approximately 15 April, when we will have a better sense of numbers of Provost Scholars.
- D. Mentoring: New mentoring process—'mentoring circle' (proposed by Parth)—will be tried out on Thursday, 23 March: 26 students and 25 faculty/staff participating. If successful, will be added to the Fall Meridian retreat for incoming 1<sup>st</sup>-year students.

#### II. Program Probation

##### A. Update (Ian)

In F16: 23 students (HS) placed on program probation; 18 of those removed from program in S17; 5 continue in program on probation.

In S17: 9 HS placed on program probation; 21 HSN students placed on program probation (7 under-represented minorities; 10 CEP; 17 males) (21 of 133; 16%)

##### B. Appeals (developing an office procedure)

Long discussion about establishing an appeals panel to handle student appeals to removal from program (and perhaps appeals to admission); conversation went beyond developing an honors appeal panel to honors retention policy. Two large possibilities were raised:

- 1) having 'a year of grace' (Toberman) for the first year; no GPA standard; the 3.2 would go into effect the third semester;
- 2) having a progressive GPA standard: e.g., 3.0 (1<sup>st</sup> semester; 3.1 1<sup>st</sup>-year; 3.2 thereafter) (Crk). Both would require revision to 1R2 policy.

Director would like to know how many students (HSN) are actually on probation over more than one semester and how many HSN students, once on probation, are

able to stay in program on probation or get off probation. Perhaps, with approval of UHAC, make exceptions to current policy, to give us time to collect evidence and develop policy response.

We also discussed align honors probation and removal with the policies and procedures of the Financial Aid Office; general sense that for honors students on scholarship, there should be a single, aligned process for both (so, no two letters, coming at different times, with different possibilities of retention/appeal/etc).

For draft appeals procedure, based on discussion, see attachment.

### III. Honors Curriculum (once again)

During honors revision, Director presented the Honors program as a program that students chose to join, not an alternative general education track. This was a fuzzy interpretation. It was also a deliberate interpretation: in order to protect honors reform from turf battles that attend to general education and to give UHAC as great of range of freedom as possible in redesigning honors.

However, the Director and the Provost have now been acknowledging that it is in fact an alternative general education track. As such it is subject to the IBHE's requirement that "each baccalaureate degree must include a specific general education component consisting of at least 37 semester credit hours of coursework in communication, mathematics, social and behavioral sciences, life and physical sciences (must include a laboratory component), and humanities and fine arts." The new honors curricular (19 credit hours) when combined with the university-wide criteria for BA (8 courses in the humanities and fine/performing arts, 2 of which are a language) and BS degrees (8 courses in the physical and life sciences, 2 of which are a lab) (24 credit hours) exceeds the IBHE-mandated-credit-hour requirement of 37 hours (43 hours). However, it would be possible for a small number of honors students to pass through SIUE and not take a mathematics course, a social or behavioral science, and a lab course. After consultation with the Provost and other members of the Provost's staff (Erin B., Tom J., and Zenia A.) the consensus is that we have to modify 1R2 to bring Honors into compliance with the IBHE requirements to forestall potential audit findings by either the SIU system or the IBHE that would find us out of compliance.

The Director laid out this issue; the Director has a proposed solution (actually two). Time did not permit discussion. Will pick up at next meeting.

## **Attachment: draft procedure for Honors Program Appeals**

### **Appeal Panel:**

composed of 3 members of the University Honors Advisory Council (2 faculty members and 1 staff member or student);  
members chosen at the beginning of each AY and ready to serve remainder of AY;  
appeals membership visible on honors website;  
chair of appeals panel, a faculty member. Chair of panel responsible for calling meetings of panel, gathering communication and necessary documents from Honors Office; communicating with student, keeping to timeline, etc;  
2 alternates chosen each year, should someone not be available or need to recuse themselves in a particular case.

**Note/question:** why should we not have a student potential serve on panel? We have students serving as interviewers for Meridian process, effectively giving them a role in admissions to program. Opportunity for autonomy, for responsibility and for oversight.

### **Student appeals:**

appeal in writing to Honors Program;  
documentation of 'significant event';  
time frame: 15 business days of 'event;' appeals panel to meet within 15 business days of receiving appeal;  
decision to student, in writing from chair of appeals panel, within 5 business days of hearing;  
student has right to meet face-to-face with hearing panel if they choose.

**Questions:** What are 'significant events?' Can a student appeal being put on probation? Or just removal? Time frames, reasonable?

### **Nothing in this office procedure takes away students' rights to file a student grievance.**

Question: How to align with financial aid processes? Can we/should we align so that student gets one letter (program probation/scholarship probation; removal from program/loss of scholarship, etc). Appeals, policies, procedures, etc. Should there be one consistent/uniform appeal process for honors students/scholarship?