

Minutes (unapproved)
University Honors Advisory Council
5 October 2015
9-10.30am
Provost's Conference Room

Present: Bell-Werner, M.; Berger, C.; Crk, I.; Hecht, K.; Roucka, T.; Seltzer, C.; Shustrin, K.; Smallman, L.; Voss, E.; Ware, K.; Toberman, I. (guest); Ruckh, E. (chair)

I. Announcements: no announcements.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. 1 May 2015

B. 31 August 2015

C. 14 September 2015

Fearing that the minutes would soon be unreadable and lost, Charles motioned their approval; Keith seconded. Unanimously approved.

III. Old Business: Action on Honors Reform Proposal

Last week, on 30 September, Eric Voss motioned and Kara Shustrin seconded, the following:

that the University Honors Advisory Council

a) approve **the proposed modification of University Policy 1R2 (Dean's Scholars) that consolidates Honors Program related policy by:**

changing the name of the policy (from Dean's Scholars to Honors Program), aligning it with University practice;

modifying and enhancing the honors general education curriculum, the key components of which are

a 15 credit-hour Honors Core (Honors 120/Honors 121, Honors 250, Honors 320A, Honors 320B)

a 4 credit-hour Pro-seminar Sequence (1 credit-hour each) (Honors 100, Honors 200, Honors 300, Honors 499)

a 6 credit-hour Honors Extension (2 regular courses enhanced with an Honors Contract)

clear curricular requirements for continuing and transfer students who join the Honors Program

establishing a service requirement (50 hours by graduation) for Honors Scholars
establishing a clear policy for transfer and continuing students so that they may also have the opportunity to participate in SIUE's Honors Program

allowing continuing and transfer students to apply for entry with up to 60 credit-hours and with at least a 3.5 GPA
establishing Honors 250 as a transfer/continuing student gateway course
raising the retention standards of the Program from 3.0 to a cumulative 3.2 GPA—bringing them more in line with peer institutions;

- b) approve **the following modification to University Policy 1H2 (General Education Requirements for Honors Students, making it a placeholder sentence that directs the inquirer to the modified 1R2: “The general education requirements for Honors Scholars are contained in 1R2;”**
- c) approve the set of course additions, modification, and deletions necessary to implement the above policy:
modification of HONS 120
addition of HONS 121
deletion of HONS 220
addition of HONS 250
deletion of HONS 320
addition of HONS 320A
addition of HONS 320B
modification of HONS 420
addition of HONS 100
addition of HONS 200
addition of HONS 300
addition of HONS 499;
- d) give the Director of the University Honors Program the authority to make editorial and minor revisions of the policy language and all the documents associated with honors reform as needed to in relation to requests from the Faculty Senate.

Discussion

The director reported that the Registrar confirms that it will be possible to track courses completed with an H-Contract; the Registrar also confirms that it will be possible to set up a system where by which the retention standards of the program can be tracked and enforced.

The Council affirmed that the proposed program can be scaled in terms of cohort size and that the size of the incoming cohort should be scaled to reflect financial limits and constraints.

There was broad support to the sentiment that Dr. Eric Voss expressed: that we should move forward with reform (at some prudent size) and that we should not allow the program to continue to run as it is.

The University Honors Advisory Council voted to approve the proposal 12 to 0. (Note: two electronic proxy votes were delivered to the Chair, Beckmann’s and Omondi’s.)