Collegewide Honors Council
Meeting Agenda
Friday, April 3, 2015
MB 2-210
10:30 AM-12:15 PM

Attendees: Maureen Groome, David Houk, Ray Wilson, Shai Neumann, Marina Baratian, CJ Baker-Schverak, AvaAnne Hogue, Lauren Houchin, and Dr. Mary Roslonowski

Guest: Dr. David Simmons

- Spring 2015 Honors Graduates
  - Convocation Dinner
    - Thursday, May 7, 2015 6:00 PM at The Palm Café at Kiwi Tennis Club is proposed date and time. However, this may have to change because there is a tennis tournament going on that week at the Club. Mary will check with the owner to see if dinner should be rescheduled or moved to a different venue such as Tuscany Grill.
  - 12 honors diploma graduates (as of 3/30/2015)
    - Invitation to be sent out next week to honors faculty currently teaching honors courses and the graduates after venue is confirmed.
    - Faculty attending are asked to comment on graduating student achievement in their course(s), if applicable.
    - Only faculty who have taught or tried to offer an honors course in the 2014-2015 academic year will be invited as there is limited space with the large number of graduates.
    - One student currently has a GPA slightly lower than 3.5. Mary will monitor when grades are due to ensure student has met diploma requirements.

- Fall 2015 Honors Schedule
  - Combining honors and non-honors in one class discussion - while not ideal, the Council feels this is an acceptable practice on a case by case basis. Both Leadership and Creative Writing classes were discussed by instructors who teach those courses. Council recommends these combination classes be reviewed by the Council before offering.
  - Promotional efforts for enrollment in Fall 2015 – Mary will have her office send out email and mail to all students who are eligible to take honors courses (3.5 GPA or higher and 12 credit hours) with information on the Fall honors schedule and what honors program is all about.
- Recommended that all faculty wanting to promote their IDH or other course, go through reprographics to get flyers made. Mary can send these out via email to all current honors program students as well as prospective students.
- It was also recommended that Honors have a presence on Canvas or at least in the Phi Theta Kappa shell on Canvas. Mary will look into doing this with Canvas group.

**Honors Faculty Nominations**

- Emily Lee Bailey – Cocoa Humanities adjunct – Mary presented resume and statement of honors teaching to all members. She discussed the classroom observation which took place Wednesday, April 1, 2015 and the instructor’s most recent teaching evaluation by the Department Chair. Marina Baratian made a motion to approve Ms. Bailey to teach honors courses, Maureen Groome 2nd the motion. Unanimous approval by all voting members 8/8
- Richard Margolis- Melbourne World Religions adjunct – tabled because not all the required materials were present. The faculty member will be voted on in Fall term, once classroom observation, statement of Honors teaching, last faculty evaluation, and resume have been received by the council. Instructor was not planning to teach until Spring 2016.

**Honors Course Reviews** – folders of both non-honors and honors courses were presented to all members present. Mary will take feedback back to the authors of the courses for further edits.

- ARH 2000H Honors Art History – Lynn Spencer
  - Course is the same as ARH 2000 except for the statement in the description and addition of self-reflection and assessment to the evaluation methodology.
  - Title of course should be Honors Art Appreciation
  - In #4, Core Ability is linked and the learning objective for this core ability should be different for the honors course, they should not be exactly the same. Council suggests a higher verb level for some of the learning objectives to reflect honors assessment of this core ability.
  - Should not have two core abilities – only one per course, suggest deleting linked core ability to #8.
  - In some of the learning objectives, the verb level can be raised to encourage higher level of mastery for the honors students.
  - Addition of a learning objective which demonstrates self-reflection and assessment evaluation methodology.

- PHI 2010H Honors Introduction to Philosophy – David Simmons changes recommended include:
  - Need an H after PHI 2010….PHI 2010H
  - Link Core Ability to unique honors competency #6 instead of #3.
  - Add a statement in the description on how the honors course differs from the regular course.
- Competency #6 should be a critical essay rather than a choice of two.
- Raise verb levels on some of the learning objectives as appropriate.

- HUM 2390H Honors Themes in Humanities—second review—Jeff Johnson changes recommended include:
  - Compress Competencies—many of the competencies belong as learning objectives, referring to competencies #4–#7—these are all steps in the writing process and should be combined into one competency. It is ok to have less than 3 competencies per credit.
  - Raise verb levels on many of the learning objectives so that the learning objectives actually reflect competency-critical thinking and analysis need to be stressed more and have more depth.
  - Add “working cooperatively as part of responding to peer evaluation (#8)
  - Discussion on whether non-honors course should be re-written before honors course is approved. Decided that prevue of Honors council is only to deal with Honors courses, it is up to the discipline cluster to ensure that honors and non-honors align.

- IDH 2003 History and Chemistry of Beer—course plan—Mary Roslonowski
  - Council recommended adding a statement of the impact beer has had on social and cultural history of our world or practical application. Mary will make this change and send the course plan back to Council for approval.
  - Brewery tours and students under 21—brewery will not serve anyone under the age of 21 if there is a tasting involved. Council didn’t see an issue unless there was overnight travel involved. Day trips are planned.
  - Other IDH’s have not been reviewed by the council, from now on, would like all IDH’s approved by the council...each is its own topic, so should be reviewed by the Council. Not sure if all the prior ones have been approved by Honors director, but from now on, this policy will be implemented.

- Honors Course Criteria Review Form—proposed edits and process requirements were discussed. Mary will make proposed changes to the draft and resend to the Council for approval. Changes include:
  - Instead of using question of “do you...” ask author to state “how does your course...” don’t give the author the opportunity to just check a box, the council needs to know “how they see the course meeting the honors criteria.”
  - Council discussed adding a template on how to design an honors course that could be part of this form or as a separate file.

- Honors Strategic Planning for 2015-2016
  - What new initiatives would we like to see the honors program undertake in the next year that would enhance the honors experience?
• Honors Council
  o Certificates of Recognition – were passed out to Council members present at the meeting.
  o Member recommendations for 2015-2016
    ▪ Lauren Houchin volunteered to stay on as one of the two student representatives for 2015-2016. AvaAnne Hogue is graduating this term so a second student will need to be nominated. Please send any student recommendations to Mary
    ▪ Honors faculty currently on the council may remain or roll off.
    ▪ Mary will send out a call to all honors faculty currently offering honors to ask for volunteers to serve on the 2015-2016 Council.
  o Meeting Schedule for 2015-2016 – specifics were not discussed, but Council members agreed that 4 meetings per academic year are going to be needed for 2015-2016.