HONORS COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE FACULTY SENATE – OCTOBER 5, 2018
Tim Ruhnke – Chair and Honors Program Director

HONORS

Senate report: September
3-year term
Program Director, 1 rep from each college, 4 AL. Ex officio: Director of Admissions, Registrar.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Names</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ruhnke, Tim (Director)</td>
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<td>Ladner, Barbara</td>
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<td>Liedl, Barbara</td>
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<td>Gilliland, Steve</td>
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<td>McConnell, Anne</td>
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<td>Jessica Barnes-Pietruszynski</td>
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Honors Students - AY 2017-18

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<td>Fatima</td>
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<td>Martin</td>
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Bold = new admits for AY 2018-19
Meetings
Honors Committee Meeting

November 2, 2017 Minutes

Present: Tim Ruhnke, Jessica Barnes-Pietruszynski, Marek Krasnansky, Barbara Liedle, Victoria Remey, Anne McConnell, Aaron Settle

Meeting called to order at 12:33

Minutes from 9/14 were approved.

Agenda approved.

Updates: T. Ruhnke said that there are a few additional students who will enter the program. He has spoken to a few Freshman Experience classes – and he has gotten volunteers to speak to other classes. He put together a letter for the FYE classes about the Honors Program. He also wrote a letter for high school students coming tomorrow for the quiz bowl. On Tuesday the Director of the McNair Scholars program will give a presentation about the program. He would like to encourage honors students to participate. A. Settle asked about students who would like to join the program who have already taken GE courses. Tim said that we will address that with the revision of the Honors Curriculum. If students are using the new GE curriculum it should not be a problem. With the honors curriculum revision, we will address that issue as well. We will have to look at a case by case basis for these students. But, he said, our focus should be on students who are here now and just starting their academic career.

Approval of Program Revisions: T. Ruhnke would like us to look at specifically what we would like to do revision wise for the curriculum. A. McConnell asked if we should include an essay as part of the admission process – T. Ruhnke said that it is not part of the application process, but we can change that language because that is a good idea. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski asked if we have enough GE courses to let students get through the required GE courses. T. Ruhnke said that we have enough for students now – but will have to work on developing more. We are taking some GE courses off the board – but we are adding new courses that are just for honors students. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski discussed focuses for the seminar courses and in what order they will be taken. The committee discussed what the focus of those seminars should be and in what order they should be done in. The committee suggests wider, more generalized, focuses that could be tweaked depending on the instructor and their specialization. This would allow the seminars to be more faculty driven. The committee discussed the ways in which students would work with instructors to make courses honors courses on an individual level. The committee discussed if they should create standards/objectives for those courses.

T. Ruhnke discussed some of the issues with scheduling the seminars – he looked at dead time slots of T/R and on Friday. But there would be some other conflicts – for example Faculty Senate – which includes many people who are active in intrest and teaching the courses.

A. McConnell brought up another issue with the last capstone seminar. She asked if we should bring up new issues/topics when students are already working on their thesis projects. Should the focus be on their project – or should it be ancillary? J. Barnes-Pietruszynski talked about how other schools handle the capstone as a workshop for honor student’s thesis/project. She said she liked the workshop idea because it works to keep students on track and make them responsible to a community of scholars/classmates. T. Ruhnke asked if we should strike the Honors/Thesis hours. B. Ladner said we should keep these because the students should get credit for the hours they spend working on that thesis/project. She said she would take the word capstone out of the title of the final seminar. The committee decided to change the title to Honors Thesis Workshop. We are also changing the number to 401 to make it connected to the Thesis hours.

The committee discussed the list of GE honors courses. T. Ruhnke said that this is not complete as there are some that were approved and are not on the list: for example – Eng. 101 and 102.

V. Remey asked about outreach or service aspects and if they would count toward the professional development/cultural activities requirement. T. Ruhnke said that yes these would be considered professional development. As long as these are approved then they would count.

The committee discussed dropping the cumulative ACT score to 24. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said that GPA is a much better indicator of how well a student will work as an honors student. T. Ruhnke brought up that there is a requirement of 3.3 GPA here to stay in the program. They would not be dropped from the program right away – they will have a semester or two of probation. B. Ladner suggested that we also put the SAT equivalent score.
Barbara moved and Victoria seconded these revisions and changes to the honors curriculum for the Fall 2018 semester. The changes were approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30pm

Honors Committee Meeting - March 6, 2018

Present: Anne McConnell, Tim Ruhnke, Barbara Ladner, Steve Gilliand, Jessica Barnes-Pietruszynski, Marek Kranansky

Meeting was called to order at 12:30pm

1. Deletion of Honors 160H was discussed. B. Ladner talked about reimaging it as an IDS course. T. Ruhnke talked about how we could ask if Honors 299 could eventually count as a GED class. B. Ladner said that we would need to make sure that it could substitute for something else in the GED curriculum. This would enable us to market it in a way that would bring in other students as well. There was discussion about if the title and number would need to change to achieve this. The decision was made to table that discussion. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski made the motion to approve HON. 299, B. Ladner seconded. Motion passed, unanimously.

2. T. Ruhnke said his meeting with Dr. Underdue Murph was postponed but she is going to discuss aspects of recruitment with him.

3. T. Ruhnke said that we are going to have to work with students who need honors hours by making regular courses honors courses individually. There was a discussion about logistics of banner and grading for those courses.

4. T. Ruhnke discussed finding contact points for every department for honors students. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said that there used to be honors advisers for honors students in every department – but did not know if that was still the system. B. Ladner said that advisors did not have to be the faculty working with an honors student on the project. T. Ruhnke said advisors should be the backstop or communications point person – helping students find the correct faculty to work with on projects etc. A. McConnell mentions that students could also work with faculty from outside of the University – we do have different people sitting on graduate committees.

5. A. McConnell asked what we were doing for late entry students – students who want to come into the program after they have been a student here already. T. Ruhnke talked about the difficulty of working with students who have over 100 hours. A. McConnell talked about students who were at 30 to 60 hours and asked about what the requirements for those students to apply to the honors program. T. Ruhnke discussed the requirements: a 3.5 GPA for students who have already completed semesters here.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:30pm.

Meeting with Dr. Underdue Murph – April 2, 2018.

Support from Student Affairs and Admissions/Recruitment for the Honors Program was discussed with Dr. Underdue Murph.

Grant Application to the WVSU Foundation - April 18, 2018

A grant proposal titled “Honors Program/Development of Scholarship Support for West Virginia State University Honors Program Students” was submitted to the WVSU Foundation. The proposal was not funded.

Honors Committee Meeting – August 9, 2018

A meeting was held during the organization week. No roll was taken. Recruiting for the program was discussed, as well as the concept of establishing an Honors Faculty.

Recommendations and Concerns

- Recruiting for the program needs to be a focus. Honors only sections of courses will be difficult unless more students are actively involved.
- Recruiting faculty also needs to be a focus. The center of the student experience will be the Honors project or thesis. Faculty advisers/mentors will be needed to guide these students.
It may be that the interest in an Honors Program from faculty and students. More faculty involvement will be needed in order to grow the program.

Honors Program – Revised WVSU Catalog Language

Mission
The Honors program at West Virginia State University offers enriched academic opportunities for students with high academic achievements. This program shall identify and recruit students in order to offer them academic challenges that enhance their skills and creativity. The Program will enable students to continue their pursuit of excellence.

Admission
To qualify for acceptance to the Honors Program:
- Prospective students or first-time freshmen: 3.5 GPA, 24+ composite ACT.
- Existing and transfer students: 12-30 credit hours with 3.5 GPA.

Advising
The Honors Program Director advises all the students participating in the Honors Program about the Honors Program requirements. In addition, all Honors Program students have academic advisors in their majors and are eligible for early registration each semester.

Academic Requirements
To graduate with the Honors Program designation, students must complete the following requirements:
- Maintain a minimum GPA of 3.3
- Complete Honors Core Courses (HON 101, 200, 201, 301)
- Complete at least 9 credits of General Education Honors courses OR at least 6 credits of General Education Honors courses and at least 3 credits of course work approved for Honors by the Director of the Honors Program.
- Complete Honors Project or Thesis
- Complete three approved professional and/or cultural activities each semester

Outline of Core Curriculum
Students in the Honors Program must complete the required coursework as listed and complete an Honors Project or Thesis. Some prerequisite requirements are listed in the course schedule while others are listed at the end of the course descriptions. The courses listed are three credit hour courses except where otherwise noted.

Honors Core Courses
HON 101 Honors Seminar I (1 credit hour)
Introductory seminar for Honors students. Readings and activities related to participation in the WVSU Honors Program.

HON 200 Scholarship: Research and Creative Activity (1 credit hour)
Designed for students that participate in the Honors program at WVSU. The course is an overview of research across disciplines. It outlines the different types of research and compares and analyzes research papers from different disciplines and their components. The course also reviews the requirements of the Honors Research (HON 490).

HON 201 Selected Readings (1 credit hour)
A course designed to develop students' critical reading, thinking, and writing skills in the context of the Honors curriculum. Readings will address diverse topics and may be thematically selected/organized.

HON 491 Honors Capstone Workshop (1 credit hour)
In the capstone, students will evaluate, clarify, and frame their departmental senior project using perspectives and scholarship from their major field and at least one other relevant discipline. This course is a seminar in which classes take the form of a writers' workshop.

Honors General Education Courses
GE 160H Foundations of Inquiry (3 credit hours)
An interdisciplinary, team-taught course within the “core of the core” of common learning experiences in the General Education curriculum. The course focuses on the large “human questions” by identifying how they relate to perception, reason and structure.
Focusing on multi-cultural issues of humanity (including race and gender), human thought, society and technology. Investigation will take place across disciplines and through various modes of knowledge. Prerequisite ENGL 101 placement.

GED 101H Freshman Experience (three credit hours)
ART 101H Studio I – Introduction to Art (three credit hours)
BIOL 101H Principles of Biology (four credit hours)
CHEM 100H Consumer Chemistry (three credit hours)
COMM 140H Film Appreciation (three credit hours)
ENGL 101H Writing and Communication I (three credit hours)
ENGL 102H Writing and Communication II (three credit hours)
ENGL 150H Introduction to Literature (three credit hours)
HHP 157H Healthy Living (two credit hours)
HIST 201H World History (three credit hours)
POSC 101H American National Government (three credit hours)

Other Honors Courses
HON 299 Special Topics for Honors Students (1-3 credit hours)
This is a special topics course designed for students in the Honors Program at WVSU. Courses will be designed and taught by WVSU faculty. Prerequisite(s): Admission to the Honors Program or permission of the Honors Program Director.

NSM 490H Honors Research (3-9 credit hours)

How to Apply for the Honors Program
Complete the online application available at http://www.wvstateu.edu/Forms/Honors-Program-Application.aspx.