

University Honors College Council

Annual Report 2001-2002

Standing Rules: The University Honors College Council, referred to as the Honors Council, has jurisdiction over the policies and procedures of the Honors College and advises the Dean of the Honors College. The Honors Council is responsible for admission and other academic requirements including degree requirements; criteria for selection of the members of the Honors Faculty; maintenance and regular assessment of program quality; and the curricular structure and content of the Honors College. The Honors Council consists of at least six Faculty members and at least two Students, the students appointed from among the Honors College students. Administration of the University Honors College rests with the Dean, who shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Honors Council. (06/95)

Membership: Faculty: Bill Bogley (Chair), Lani Roberts, Kate Lajtha, Al Stetz, Skip Rochefort, Chris Sproul; Students: Jennie Mieger, Katherine Miles, Maxie Peterson, Ex-officio: Joe Hendricks (University Honors College Dean)

Charges to the Council: There were no charges to the Honors Council for the academic year 01-02.

Meetings: There were two meetings of the Honors Council during the academic year 2001-2002. Minutes of these meetings are attached to this report.

Degrees: The University Honors College (UHC) graduated 68 students, who earned 85 diplomas. Honors Baccalaureates were conferred to majors from five Colleges: Science, Liberal Arts, Engineering, Agricultural Sciences, Health & Human Performances, Business (in decreasing order of number of degrees).

Admissions: Of 600 UHC applications for Fall 02, 250 were offered admission and the College has received 117 commitments (eight out-of-state) to enroll, very close to the target number of 125 new students. The achievement profile of true first-year applicants (average high school GPA 3.95, average SAT 1377) reflects the continuing appeal of the UHC to the best college-bound students. Advanced standing applications also increased.

An extremely high apply/accept ratio of 10/1 for the class entering Fall 00 produced negative reactions from top students (and their parents) who were denied admission to the UHC. Initial publication of minimum application standards (at the Presidential Scholarship level: 3.85 GPA and 1300 SAT) for the class entering Fall 01 led to a significant decrease in the applicant pool and an apply/accept ratio of 3/2. The minimum standards for the class entering Fall 02 were adjusted to the Provost Scholarship level (3.75 GPA or 1200 SAT or 29 ACT), resulting in an increased applicant pool and an apply/accept ratio of 12/5 and providing additional flexibility in the evaluation process.

Student essays are an important feature of the UHC application process and, as in previous years, Honors Council members and other faculty volunteers assisted in the assessment of essays. The essay questions for next year have been finalized. In a related matter, the UHC Dean received a proposal from Bob Bontrager, Assistant Provost for Enrollment Management for the University, to consider elimination of the essay portion of the UHC application process in consideration of a proposed essay portion for all-university applications beginning with the entering class in Fall 04. It was the clear consensus of the Honors Council that the UHC should not abandon UHC-specific essays in its application process. Comments from the Council regarding the content, logistics, and utilization of a university-wide essay application process, along with results from tests of proposed university-wide application essay questions on current first-year UHC students will be forwarded to Assistant Provost Bontrager. Additional details of these discussions are included in the minutes of the May 16 2002 meeting of the Council.

Budgets: Although budget matters are not directly within the purview of the Honors Council, Dean

Hendricks continues to report to the Council on the effects of budget considerations. The FY02 budget was balanced with the elimination of two staff positions, including the Assistant Advisor. A proposal to increase student fees for incoming UHC students, independently recommended by the FY03 Budget Reconciliation group and the Student Fee Committee, has been forwarded to OUS. UHC was one of three units on campus to receive a budget increase for FY03. The additional funds may be used to increase reimbursement levels for instruction, reactivation of the Assistant Advisor position or other staff to facilitate the College's Small Group Instructional Diagnostic process for course evaluation, or to support pending initiatives with the College of Engineering to address retention of UHC engineering majors. (Engineering and pre-Engineering students constitute the largest cohort of UHC students.)

Advising, Curriculum, Faculty: UHC students are well-served by the Head Advisor, Jane Siebler. Siebler was president of the university-wide Academic Advising Council during 00-01 and ensures that all students are also in contact with advisors in their major disciplines. All UHC students are required to consult with Siebler each term and many do so more frequently, resulting in a substantial workload for the Head Advisor. As in past years, demand for UHC courses exceeds supply, particularly in popular majors and in technical subjects. Efforts to build support for the UHC curriculum in critical areas are ongoing. Course reimbursement levels have been staggered according to CIP (Cost of Instructional Program) levels to attract courses in the more expensive disciplines. The ability of campus units to provide instructional personnel is the principal factor limiting growth on the Honors College. The Sanders Eminent Professorship Fund provides private dollars to augment the UHC curriculum; Courtney Campbell (Philosophy) was selected as UHC Eminent Professor for Fall 02. Development for a second line of Eminent Professorships is underway.

Board of Regents: The external advisory board for the UHC meets each term during the academic year. The UHCC Chair was named an ex-officio voting member of the Board at its Winter 2002 meeting. The Board consults with the UHC Dean on extracurricular programming and aids with long range strategic planning for the UHC. The Board hosted a Dad's Weekend BBQ during Fall 2001 and a Recognition Reception for graduating students and UHC faculty in May 2002. The reception was attended by President and Mrs. Risser, as well as former OSU President John Byrne. Awards presented by the Board during the reception included cash prizes for three outstanding thesis posters from the annual UHC Thesis Poster Fair, held the previous day in the MU Ballroom; poster judging was conducted by UHCC members. The success of the event encouraged the Board to make the Recognition Reception an annual event and the Board plans to broaden the scope to include recognition of the important service rendered by faculty who serve as thesis mentors for UHC students.

The Spring 2002 meeting of the Board was highlighted by a visit from Dwayne Foley, CEO of the Alumni Association and incoming CEO of the OSU Foundation. Numerous honors programs around the nation have been able to secure substantial private funding in recent years. Mr. Foley discussed the potential for the Board of Regents to incorporate the recognized success and marquee value of the UHC into ongoing efforts to develop significant private support for the Honors College. His comments led the Board to refine the articulation of the Board's mission and strategic plan in order to facilitate successful contact with potential donors. Mr. Foley observed that while the current level of public funding may enable the UHC to continue its current success, the opportunity exists to develop substantial private funding for the purpose of recruiting the nation's best students, expanding the UHC curriculum and enrollment, and transforming the UHC from a College that relies on the resources of other units into one that provides expanded opportunities for the entire university.

[Agendas](#) | [Bylaws](#) | [Committees/Councils](#) | [Faculty Forum Papers](#) | [Handbook](#) | [Meetings/Locations](#) | [Membership](#) | [Minutes](#) |