

# Faculty Senate

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## University Honors College Council

### University Honors College Council 2004-2005 Annual Report

March 13, 2005

Report from the University Honors College Council Meeting held January 28, 2005

UHCC members:

Joseph Spatafora (chair) '07 - Botany and Plant Pathology  
 Anisa Zronkovic '05 - Human Development & Family Sciences  
 Keith Scribner '05 - English  
 Jesse Ford '06 - Fisheries & Wildlife  
 Lynda King '06 - Foreign Languages & Literatures  
 Sarah Henderson '07 - Political Science  
 Jeremy Gregory - student  
 Jessica Page - student  
 Melinda von Borstel -student  
 Joe Hendricks (ex-officio) - Dean of Honors College

Dear Dr. Randhawa,

On January 28, 2005 the University Honors College Council (UHCC) met to discuss a number of issues relevant to the Honors College including incentives for increased faculty participation in the curriculum, financial and administrative needs of the College, and the OSU Capital Campaign. Summaries of the council's discussion are as follows:

#### 1. Incentives via SCH multiplier for increased faculty participation in Honors

The increase in the number of undergraduate students at OSU over the past decade, coupled with the high rate of faculty attrition, has placed a greater teaching demand on the present faculty. One result is that departments are struggling to maintain courses required for their undergraduate curricula. A side effect of this development is that it is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit faculty into Honors teaching. Part of this problem is based on the calculation of student credit hours (SCH). Honors College courses by design are low enrollment (capped at 20 students) and thus by definition generate fewer SCH. Department chairs want their faculty to generate the maximum amount of SCH relative to their appointment. Furthermore, the SCH by faculty FTE (SCH:FTE) is an important metric that is used to document a department's contribution to the teaching mission of the University. Under the current model, departments that participate in Honors College curriculum stand to generate a lower SCH:FTE ratio. In effect, the current model is arguably a disincentive for participation in the Honors instruction.

As a remedy for this disincentive, past UHCC have discussed creation of an Honors College SCH multiplier that would elevate the number of SCH generated by teaching an Honors College course. We endorse pursuing this development and encourage adoption of a 3X multiplier for Honors College courses based on an average non-Honors College course enrollment of sixty students.

An alternative is to increase the Honors reimbursement rates sufficiently to provide full buyout and employment of adjunct or part-time faculty.

#### 2. Increased administrative needs of the University Honors College

The UHC dean's office is understaffed. Currently there exists 0.5 FTE in the Assistant Dean position, although a university average is approximately 0.80 or higher FTE. The Assistant Dean (Bill Bogley) is playing a greater role in day-to-day management of the college as the Dean (Joe Hendricks) becomes increasingly involved in off-site recruiting and fundraising associated with the OSU capital campaign. The administrative load is further increased by the mandated growth of the UHC student body. The UHCC recommends that the Assistant Dean's position be increased from its current FTE of 0.5.

### 3. Capital Campaign

As OSU enters into its first capital campaign, it is critical that "Student Experience" be conspicuously promoted. The need to do so was recently recognized by the University's emphasis on the "Student Experience" in its strategic plan. Undergraduates are the most visible part of our university and it is through our undergraduates that OSU most directly interacts with the state. The UHCC encourages the maximum exposure of the "Student Experience" in the OSU Capital Campaign and, in doing so, promotes the UHC as one of the most effective vehicles. The UHC is unique in that it combines the intimacy of a smaller liberal arts education with the resources of a major research institution. Furthermore, through faculty buyouts and student scholarships, funding that flows to the UHC passes through to other departments and academic units. When UHC financially benefits, other units benefit as well through the presence of good students and by virtue of pass-through funds.

Sincerely,

Joseph W. Spatafora  
University of Honors College Council, Chair

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