

Honors Program Committee

Meeting – November 10, 2015, 1 pm – Honors Lounge – DuPont 210

Present – Daniel Hirshberg (CAS), Lynn Lewis (CAS), Gary Richards (CAS), Kelli Slunt (CAS), Jeanne Campbell, Richard Finklestein

Absent – John Broome (COE) and Jennifer Polack (CAS) – Jennifer sent feedback about proposals to the committee prior to the meeting

Note – the date of the meeting was changed from November 20th to November 10th in order to approved the proposals for submission to the CAS Curriculum Committee by the deadline of November 11, 2015.

New Business

- 1) The committee unanimously approved the minutes and action items of the committee from September and October of 2015.
- 2) The committee unanimously approved COMM 341, Communication Research Methods as a course that can fulfill the Honors Program Research Methodology Course requirement, effective Spring 2016.
- 3) The committee discussed a request from a faculty member to consider a contract for a non-honors course for a group of three students for spring 2016. The committee had previously decided (effective fall 2015) to only allow students to use the previously approved contracts for non-honors courses and to only accept HN contracts under extenuating circumstances. The committee did not feel that extenuating circumstances existed in this case. Kelli will contact the faculty member to encourage the faculty member to consider proposing an HN designation for the course or for other courses in the discipline.
- 4) The committee discussed critical masses for HN designated courses. It was decided that the critical mass may vary from course to course but at least 30-50% of the course of HN scholars seems to enhance the discussion and class environment. Richard Finkelstein encouraged the honors program committee to identify courses that are not currently HN designated that could be targeted for an HN designation.
- 5) The committee discussed two proposals to be submitted to the CAS Curriculum Committee. The proposals were altered to reflect the discussion of the committee.

- a. HONR 200 – a sophomore-level research methods seminar
 - b. Changes to the Honors Program requirements
- 6) The proposals were unanimously approved by the committee. Kelli will disseminate copies of the proposals by email for final review of the wording changes for submission on November 11, 2015.
- 7) Next meeting will be January 6, 2016 at 1 pm unless a meeting needs to be schedule to discuss feedback from the Curriculum Committee(s) about the proposed changes to the honors program and/or about the newly proposed course.

The meeting was dismissed at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Slunt

Director of Honors Program, Chair and Secretary of the Honors Program Committee