

Honors Program Committee
February Minutes/Reports
University of Mary Washington
Academic Year Fall 2021 – Spring 2022

E-mail Discussion Minutes
February 2022

1. **Report—Honors Course Proposals:** The committee reviewed 6 proposals for Honors-designated courses. The results were as follows:
 - *Approved Proposals:*
 - EDUC 206, Foundations of Education (Garvin-Hudson)
 - Previously approved as an Honors course; committee has approved the addition of a new instructor.
 - EDUC 351A, Instructional Design and Assessment (Garvin-Hudson)
 - Previously approved as an Honors course; committee has approved the addition of a new instructor.
 - MKTG 471J, Alleviating Food Waste (Majid)
 - There was some discussion about whether the Honors designation could be added to a special topics course like this one. The committee decided to approve the course as is, but if the course becomes a permanent offering, it may need to be reapproved as an Honors course.
 - PSCI 351, International Political Economy (Gupta)
 - *Revisions Requested:*
 - FSEM 100 HXX, International Fairy Tales and Children’s Literature (Rotter)
 - GERM 302, Oral Communication (Hansen-Glucklich)

2. **Report—Honors Capstone Project Revision:** The committee reviewed and approved a student request for revision to their approved capstone project proposal.

[Continued on Next Page]

Synchronous Zoom Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2022
1:00 PM

Present:

Voting Members

Mindy Erchull, Chair (CAS)

Leanna Giancarlo (CAS)

Nora Kim (CAS)

Robert Wells, Secretary (CAS)

Ping Yin (CAS)

Ex officio

Amanda Ronay, Office Manager

Mara Scanlon, Honors Program Fellow (CAS)

Kelli Slunt, Honors Program Director (CAS)

The committee met via Zoom to discuss the following items.

1. **Honors capstone project:** The committee discussed the issue of capstone projects for which the bulk of work on the project is completed in the fall. The committee determined that projects in this category should be proposed by the March deadline, while “true” yearlong projects should be proposed by the November deadline. The committee also briefly discussed the problem of students selecting a faculty member as a capstone project advisor without letting the faculty member know.
2. **Track B candidates:** The committee reviewed 20 applications and admitted 13 students to the Honors Program. Because the Honors Program is already beyond best practices in terms of the large number of students in the program, the committee decided to select students based on merits and holistic fit for the program, with no strict numerical cutoff.
3. **Track B applications from transfer students:** The committee discussed the problem of students applying for Track B with close to 60 credits (generally transfer students). The problem is that students who transfer in too many credits will not have time to complete all Honors Program Requirements. The committee agreed to continue this discussion in the future.
4. **Honors Program selection criteria:** The committee discussed the problem of over-weighting the “Academic Excellence” criterion, which is an important

predictor of success in the Honors Program, but can also exclude students who would be a good fit for non-academic reasons. In particular, the committee decided that it should take seriously applicants' strengths in areas such as service, extracurriculars, leadership, and response to the essay question to increase the well-roundedness and diversity of students in the Honors Program.

5. **Track B application recommendation letters:** It was brought to the committee's attention that some Track B applicants received copies of their recommendation letter due to faculty having problems with the submission portal. The committee discussed the need for clarifying the recommendation letter submission process for faculty in the future. Additionally, some applicants had one recommendation letter while others had two letters, so the number of permitted recommendations will need to be clarified in the future.
6. **PELP and Honors Program goals:** The committee observed that the Presidential Emerging Leaders Program (PELP) shares key goals with the Honors Program. A formal discussion will need to occur at some point between PELP leaders and the Honors Program Committee to discuss the overlap issue.
7. **Next Honors Program Committee meeting:** The next synchronous meeting will occur after committee appointments have been made (date/time TBA). At this meeting, the committee will need to decide on a new chair and secretary.

Meeting adjourned at 2:29 PM.