

**Minutes of December 13, 2017**

**Present:** Karen Bresciano, Stuart Brown, Jennifer Lease Butts, Susanna Cowan, Robin Coulter, Joseph Crivello, Peter Diplock, Holly Fitch, Hedley Freake, Larry Gramling, Robin Grenier, Katrina Higgins, Jill Livingston (recorder), Jean Main, Veronica Makowsky (Chair).

**Guests:** Patricia Szarek, Associate Director for Enrollment Management for the Honors Program, and Rachel O’Neill, Professor of Molecular & Cell Biology and Member of the Honors Board of Associate Directors.

**Absent:** Brian Aneskievich (fall semester scheduling conflict), Gregory Bouquot, Nithisha Chittajallu, David Clokey, Gretchen Geer, Ellen Tripp, David Wagner

I. The Minutes of December 5, 2017 were approved.

II. Information Items: None.

III. Old Business:

A. DoubleMajors across Schools and Colleges:

Discussion: SSC reviewed the motion, which contained those changes agreed upon at the December 5 meeting. Additional changes were made to finalize the proposal.

Decision: A motion to approve was made by Robin Coulter, seconded by Katrina Higgins, and unanimously approved. Veronica will share the motion with the SEC.

B. Response to Academic Accommodations Issues:

Discussion: SSC edited the draft, making changes to add clarity.

Decision: A motion to approve was made by Holly Fitch, seconded by Robin Coulter, and unanimously approved. Veronica will share the document with the SEC.

IV. New Business: Honors Regulations Revisions:

Discussion: SSC reviewed changes to the Honors Regulations submitted by the Honors Board of Associate Advisors. These regulations are under SSC authority. The proposed changes are a result of the Honors Board fundamentally considering what it means to graduate with honors. Approximately a year ago, the Honors Board approved a theoretical model for honors, heavily based on Dr. Joseph S. Renzulli's research on gifted and talented students. Once the Honors Board approved the model, they assembled a task force to consider best implementation. The task force met from about November 2016 to the end of the 2016-17 academic year. It included individuals from all schools and colleges. The proposal includes two new award structures: Honors Scholar (existing) and University Honors Laureate (new). Under the new system, the sophomore designation is omitted. Changes make it much more manageable for students to obtain the awards in 3 or 4 years; they help students who enter honors later to be able to earn an award or awards. Students may pursue either the Honors Scholar only or both awards. The Regulations were approved by the Honors Board at the October and November Honors Board meetings, with a final set of minor revisions approved in December. These are the first major overhaul of the regulations since 1972.

Changes to the Honors Regulations would be in effect in Fall 2018. They would *not* be retroactive. This will give the Honors Program time to fully work out the process. They will be effective by date of entry to university (new first year students starting in fall), rather than date of entry to the Honors program.

Approval: Hedley Freake made a motion to approve the document as amended by the SSC, seconded by Robin Coulter, and approved by all in attendance with one abstention.

Once the document is finalized, Veronica will bring it to the SEC. The Honors Regulations will need to be presented for informational purposes to the Senate.

In addition to those changes approved in the Regulations, several decisions were made:

- SSC will ratify the slate of Honors Board members at a fall meeting. Honors Board will add this to their procedural document.
- Those members from SSC and C&C who serve jointly on the Honors Board are full voting members.
- The formal name of the board is the Honors Board of Associate Directors, but it is generally referred to as the Honors Board.
- SSC expressly supports the aim and efforts of the Honors Program to enable first year acceptance at the regional campuses.
- The Honors Board will consider whether there should be a specific minimum number of Honors credits required outside of the major.

- V. Organize Academic Integrity Discussion for Spring meetings.

Approximately the first half hour of the January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting will be devoted to delineating the issues and deciding on expert guests to help inform the SSC.

- VI. Next Meeting: Monday, January 22, 2018; 2:00-3:30 PM, School of Business 302.

Please note that room 302 is on same floor as the Dean's office. Depending on the entrance used to the building, the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor is up one or two flights.

- VII. Hedley Freake made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Stuart Brown, and approved by all.