

Meeting Minutes for Washburn Honors Advisory Board

Wednesday, September 16, 2009, 12:30 p.m.

Crane Room

Present: Jennifer Ball, Dean Corwin, Lisa Sharpe-Elles, Mo Godman, Rachel Goossen, Dannah Hartley, Keenan Hogan, Michael McGuire (Chair), Marguerite Perret, Bonnie Peterson, Carol Prim, and Angel Romero

Meeting was Called to Order

Opening Remarks and Introductions

The Chair welcomed all members to the meeting and briefly shared his vision for the University Honors Program (UHP)

The focus of this meeting is to provide an introduction to the topics needing immediate approval and discussion from the board while laying the groundwork for future goals and endeavours

Self-introductions by each member occurred

Business

Charge of Committee

A history of the advisory board was provided which included the make-up of committee members – ex officio, secretary, etc.

Request to meet biweekly was supported with the Chair offering to send a follow-up email requesting members' availability

The Faculty Handbook description of the board was reviewed

The Chair envisions this board becoming the brainstorming central for the UHP's organization and development

The Chair will maintain ties with upper administration and share our ideas with the VPAA for action approval

The issue of terms (both two- and three-year) was broached and supported by the board

Immediate Goals

The Chair shared several topics which will require immediate discussion and attention beginning at the next meeting

Establishing eligibility requirements for freshmen

The board was overwhelmingly supportive of reducing the ambiguity of the UHP

One potential eligibility scale proposed by the Chair is a 25 ACT composite score coupled with a 3.5 cumulative high school GPA – will discuss different eligibility requirements in more depth at next meeting.

Discussion about why articulating specific admissions criteria is crucial for the UHP touched on the following points – stabilizing the program’s numbers, creating a manageable and ideal population, recognizing the top 5-10% of students, targeting enrollment in HN courses to those who best fit the terms of the curriculum, and retention

Additional ideas and epiphanies should be sent via email to the Chair

Identifying students who are in the program

There is no official database of students who have applied to the program

The Chair has requested the Banner code of “UHON” to be utilized as the UHP attribute

It was mentioned that gathering a list of faculty who have taught an HN course would also be useful

Other Goals: Setting up scholarships; Organizing a student council ; and Developing official UHP materials for recruitment and campus education/use

Long-term Goals

The Chair briefly touched on his larger vision for this program on both an academic and social front

The list of future plans includes:

Designing an aspect of MyWashburn to be used a students and faculty/staff honors resource

Identifying a space or home for the UHP on campus

Identifying specific honors advisors and advising process

Creating an Associate or Assistant Dean/Director position

Attending regional and national conferences within the honors community – both on a faculty/staff and student level

Developing a social community, opportunities, and events for UHP students

Meeting Adjourned

