Minutes were reviewed and approved from the last meeting in January. Gary reported on the progress of recruiting and scholarships for the upcoming 2006-07 class for the Honors Program. Three students were selected to receive the World Herald/Kearney Hub Scholarship out of 23 students who were invited to attend the January 26th reception. The winners are Kate Bush of Kearney, Katrina Chavez of Minden, and Nathaniel Wagner of Columbus. Acceptance letters are still being mailed to most who have applied to the Honors Program and scholarship letters will go out within the week.

The Ed and Betty Cook Scholarship luncheon took place on February 14. The Cooks fund 20 Honors Scholarships at $1000 per year for each recipient. Since the scholarship was founded in 2003, 15 Cook scholars currently hold the award, and the incoming five freshmen for Fall 2006 will round out the total to 20. A GPA of 3.25 must be maintained.

Ashley Vandeventer, Omaha Northwest freshman, is present as a representative of the Honors Student Advisory Board. She talked about some of the events that HSAB has planned for the rest of the semester, such as Random Acts of Kindness, Honors Week, and raising money by selling Survival Kits for families to purchase for their honors student.

Jane explained the assessment procedure and rubric for the 2005 Honors Senior Studies. Four Honors Senior Studies from each of the four colleges were distributed to the appropriate college representatives sitting on the Honors Advisory Council. Council representatives may themselves assess the Senior Studies, but if any are in disciplines outside the members’ own, the Council members must procure other faculty readers. These faculty readers should be in the same discipline as the Senior Study, and should not be the same faculty mentors of the Senior Study in question. Assessment data should be returned to Jane Christensen by April for the Assessment Report. The rubric will be posted on the Honors web page, as will the assessment data. Linda Van Ingen asked how the Senior Studies were selected. They are selected randomly, four from each college.

Dennis Potthoff commented that the rubric and assessment data should help education majors focus more fully as they prepare for TE 400H, student teaching, as their Senior Study (most education majors select their internship as their Honors Senior Study).

Jane met with Elaine Gokie and Diana Jones to discuss the possibility of blocking honors call numbers in order to prevent any non-Honors students from registering for
Honors sections, most particularly for Honors option courses in the 300-400 level. On Elaine’s and Diana’s advise, call numbers will not be blocked---there seems to be relatively little real problem, at least as of right now, with non-Honors students registering for Honors sections. Jane checks rosters of Honors sections each semester after registration anyway, and will continue to do so; if there seems to be an upsurge in non-Honors students registering for Honors sections.

Honors advising will begin February 27. Upper-class students will be encouraged to begin negotiating their honors option work with faculty right away. Honors students pre-register for Fall 2006 on March 30, which is also the deadline for Honors Option contract submission.

The next meeting will be March 22, at 4:00PM in the Conference Room, Memorial Student Affairs Building. The meeting will be the fourth week of March because of Spring Break, which is March 13th through the 17th.

Adjournment at 4:50PM

Respectfully submitted: JoLene Williams, Staff Secretary III
Revision consensus and approval by Christensen and Brown