Honors Advisory Council  
Minutes—September 21, 2005, 4:00 p.m.  
MSAB Conference Room

Present: Jane Christensen, Ruth Brown, Ron Tuttle, Dennis Potthoff, Janice Fronczak, Beverly Frickel, Kenya Taylor, Linda Van Ingen, Gary Davis

Absent: Glen Powell, Dusty Newton

Introduction of all members; a welcome to Linda Van Ingen, NSS representative, as the newest member of the Honors Advisory Council. Linda replaces Jim Roark for the College of Natural and Social Sciences. Paul Twigg will replace Sherri Harms as a representative of the same college. Paul was not in attendance as his appointment to this Council took place after the meeting (9/27/05, by suggestion of Dean Frank Harrold and Paul’s consent to serve). Review and approval of the minutes of the April 13, 2005 meeting last spring.

Gary Davis encouraged all members to read the history of the Honors Program (enclosed in the members’ folders) at their leisure.

He also explained the administrative structure of the Honors Program: Gary Davis, Director; Jane Christensen, Associate Director; Jolene Williams, secretary.

An overview of the Honors Program student enrollment numbers was presented by Gary Davis. Included in this data were total enrollment, enrollment by class rank, average ACT score of freshmen 2005 class, and breakdown of origin of Honors students. (data enclosed in these minutes)

It was noted this is the smallest freshmen class in recent years, yet the mean ACT is higher. Potthoff asked if a lack of scholarship monies was the reason for the smaller freshmen class. The answer was yes, this was a distinct possibility. Van Ingen asked if the listed retention rate included those Honors students who transferred as sophomores or juniors into professional schools. Yes, these students were included in the data.

Brown asked if students left the Honors Program because of the Senior Study. Christensen answered that typically this was not the case; if students left the Honors Program it was usually within the first year, and usually because they saw little value for them in the Honors Program.

Brown asked if data could be compiled and presented on junior/senior retention. Yes—this data will be forthcoming.

Introduction of Claire Perry, Vice President of the Honors Student Advisory Board. Claire presented a handout outlining the purpose and scope of the Student Board. Some of the purposes of HSAB are to build community among Honors students through social events and monthly activities as well as community service events; and to encourage Honors students to make suggestions as well as voice concerns about the Honors Program to HSAB (student-to-student contact).
Jane Christensen explained the history, nature, and scope of the upcoming Scholars Recognition Day, a recruitment opportunity co-sponsored by the Office of Admissions and the Honors Program. 2500 invitations to Nebraska high school seniors and juniors with ACTs of 26+ and top 10% class ranks were sent. Typical attendance at these events is around 500-600 prospective students and their parents. The Omaha World Herald/Kearney Hub corporation funds the event, and the Chancellor hosts the luncheon.

Christensen then explained the procedure of academic advising for Honors students which will begin October 3. Van Ingen expressed concern that faculty may want to be notified that Honors students will begin asking for academic advising appointment much earlier than other UNK students as Honors students register earlier. It was agreed that Chairs will be notified immediately of the early registration so as to alert faculty in their respective departments. Agenda item #7, comparison of scholarships between UNK, UNL, and UNO was postponed until the next meeting pending the compilation of data. The role of the Advisory Council in terms of disseminating information to chairs within the respective colleges was agreed upon as a very good way to keep all chairs/faculty in each department informed as to the proceedings of this Council. Discussion of possible goals for the upcoming semester as well as spring will be discussed at the October 19, 2005 meeting.

Adjournment at 5:00 pm

Respectfully submitted: Jane Christensen and Jolene Williams, Staff Secretary III Revision, consensus, and approval by Christensen, Fronczak, and Brown