Honors Advisory Council
Minutes: January 17, 2007
MSAB Conference Room

Present: Gary Davis, Petula Vaz, Dusty Newton, Linda Van Ingen, Ron Tuttle, Dennis Potthoff, Deb Bridges, Aaron Dimock, Beverly Frickel

Absent: Jane Christensen, Paul Twigg, Janice Fronczak

Minutes of the November 15, 2006 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Gary Davis asked the council members to look at the e-mail sent by Janice Fronczak’s to the Chairs of FAH after the November HAC meeting as an example as to be considered when informing each of the Chairs in their respective colleges of information covered in HAC meetings.

Information was provided to the council about the Omaha World Herald and Kearney Hub (OWH/KH) Scholarship Finalists. Thirty of the very best and brightest Nebraska high school seniors were invited to campus on January 24th and 25th (15 each day) to interview for the OWH/KH scholarship and participate in an Honors seminar. The average ACT score for the finalists was 31.26. The breakdown of the number of students to ACT scores was: 1-35, 6-33’s, 5-32’s, 7-31’s, 9-3’s and 2-29’s. The representation of finalists to high school class size was: 9 from AA schools, 6 from B schools, 6 from C schools, 8 from D schools, and 1 home schooled student (33 ACT). Five high schools had 2 finalists each: Blue Hill High School, Grand Island Sr. High, Kearney High, McCook High School and Wayne High School. There were five finalists from the Omaha area and none from Lincoln. Three finalists will win the OWH/KH Scholarships but all finalists receive tuition and room payment for four years.

February 1st is the deadline for scholarship applications to both the University and the UNK Honors Program. The student must be admitted to UNK before they can be admitted into the Honor Program. The number of high school students that have been accepted into the Honors Program for F2007 is greatly this year than at this time last year. Current UNK students can join the Honors Program if they have a minimum of a 3.50 GPA and completed at least 12 credit hours at UNK.

Deb Bridges, the new faculty/assistant to the SVACCSL, asked the HAC members to discuss the benefits to the departments, their faculty and students involved in Honors classes. A roundtable discussion was held with each council member responding. Bridges appreciated the quality of the responses. The overall consensus was that the Honors Program is a significant benefit to departments, faculty and especially the students. A list of the benefits discussed will be created and distributed to administrators and faculty members.
Communication between Department Chairs and the Honors Program has begun to establish the Honors General Studies classes that will be offered during the Fall 2007 & Spring 2008 school year. This process is critical to the Honors Program and Dr. Davis expressed his appreciation to all the Department Chairs that have already consented to offer Honors General Studies classes. He will continue to work with all Department Chairs that would like to offer classes to Honor students. The yearly list of Honors General Studies classes will be finished prior to February 15.

The main agenda item for the February and March HAC meeting will be the assessment of Honors Senior Studies from 2006 graduates.

Adjournment at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by JoLene Williams, recording secretary
Revised and Edited by Dr. Gary Davis, Director of the Honors Program.